

detail, Domenico di Michelino,
Dante and the Three Kingdoms, 1465
Museo dell'Opera del Duomo



LONGFELLOW

DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY



EPIC POEM

.ORG

DIGITAL CLASSICS

INTERLEAVABLE

THESE LINES HAVE CONVERGED TO TELL
A STORY THAT SATISFIES ME IN MY HEART,
WHERE ONLY THERE IT REALLY COUNTS.

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti *descend* I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.

Inferno tri-Canti *descend*;
Paradiso tri-Canti *ascend*;
Purgatorio tri-Canti *erased*.

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My voice, imprinted with a great affection.

IV [335]=8.45

Who with the power of heaven the world imprints

V [313]=10.29

O power benignant that dost so imprint them!

IX [526]=23.85

And saw a hundred spherules that together
With mutual rays each other more embellished.

IX [603-604]=22.23-24

And he: "If I were made of leaded glass,
Thine outward image I should not attract
Sooner to me than I imprint the inner.

IX [1215-1217]= 23.25-27

There is Romena, where I counterfeited
The currency imprinted with the Baptist,

XI^A [506-507]=XI^B [73-74] = 30.73-74

Such love must needs imprint itself in me;

X^A [586]=X^B [1015]=26.27

In Hell to leave the imprint of thy feet,

XII [516] = 31.81

My brain is now imprinted by yourself
33.81



PRINT
2-SIDED:
2 to 135

LONGFELLOW

DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY

EPIC

POEM

.ORG

DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
RESTARTS

18

1

Excluding Purgatorio Canti
(not counting **X^B** and **XI^B**):

	LINES	MIDPOINT
I	272	[136/137]
II	849	[424/425]
III	810	[405/406]
IV	837	[418/419]
V	837	[418/419]
VI	831	[415/416]
VII	837	[418/419]
VIII	858	[429/430]
IX	897	[448/449]
X	849	[424/425]
XI	864	[432/433]
XII	873	[436/437]
I to XII	9,614	VII [371/372]

FROM GATE OF HELL:
including **II** [294]
to **XII** 9,049 **VII** [654]

Canti , 1, 18

QUICK START

1 [1] 18 [137]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Inferno 1: 136

Paradiso 18: 136

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:

tri-Canti *descend* **I** to **VI**,
ascend **VII** to **XII**.

Inferno tri-Canti *descend*;Paradiso tri-Canti *ascend*;Purgatorio tri-Canti *erased*.

I

7

INTERLEAVABLE

language: English
copy text: H.W. Longfellow (1867)
typeface: Kings Caslon
by Dalton Maag

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EPICPOEM.ORG  272 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

PRINT
2-SIDED:
2 to 5

There where the mountain backward piles itself,
I wearied out, and both of us uncertain
About our way, we stopped upon a plain
More desolate than roads across the deserts.
From where its margin borders on the void,
To foot of the high bank that ever rises,
A human body three times told would measure;

1 MIDWAY upon the journey of our life
 I found myself within a forest dark,
 For the straightforward pathway had been lost.
 Ah me! how hard a thing it is to say
 5 What was this forest savage, rough, and stern,
 Which in the very thought renews the fear.
 So bitter is it, death is little more;
 But of the good to treat, which there I found,
 Speak will I of the other things I saw there.
 10 I cannot well repeat how there I entered,
 So full was I of slumber at the moment
 In which I had abandoned the true way.
 But after I had reached a mountain's foot,
 At that point where the valley terminated,
 15 Which had with consternation pierced my heart,
 Upward I looked, and I beheld its shoulders,
 Vested already with that planet's rays
 Which leadeth others right by every road.
 Then was the fear a little quieted
 20 That in my heart's lake had endured throughout
 The night, which I had passed so piteously.
 And even as he, who, with distressful breath,
 Forth issued from the sea upon the shore,
 Turns to the water perilous and gazes;
 25 So did my soul, that still was fleeing onward,
 L1[I] Turn itself back to re-behold the pass
 Which never yet a living person left.
 After my weary body I had rested,
 The way resumed I on the desert slope,
 30 So that the firm foot ever was the lower.
 And lo! almost where the ascent began,
 A panther light and swift exceedingly,
 Which with a spotted skin was covered o'er!
 And never moved she from before my face,
 35 Nay, rather did impede so much my way,
 That many times I to return had turned.
 The time was the beginning of the morning,
 And up the sun was mounting with those stars
 That with him were, what time the Love Divine
 40 At first in motion set those beauteous things;
 So were to me occasion of good hope,
 The variegated skin of that wild beast,
 The hour of time, and the delicious season;
 But not so much, that did not give me fear
 45 A lion's aspect which appeared to me.
 He seemed as if against me he were coming
 With head uplifted, and with ravenous hunger,
 So that it seemed the air was afraid of him;
 And a she-wolf, that with all hungerings
 Seemed to be laden in her meagreness,

1 O gentle star! what and how many gems
 Did demonstrate to me, that all our justice
 Effect is of that heaven which thou ingemmest!
 Wherefore I pray the Mind, in which begin
 Thy motion and thy virtue, to regard
 Whence comes the smoke that vitiates thy rays;
 120 So that a second time it now be wroth
 With buying and with selling in the temple
 Whose walls were built with signs and martyrdoms!
 O soldiery of heaven, whom I contemplate,
 Implore for those who are upon the earth
 125 All gone astray after the bad example!
 Once 't was the custom to make war with swords;
 But now 't is made by taking here and there
 The bread the pitying Father shuts from none.
 Yet thou, who writest but to cancel, think
 130 That Peter and that Paul, who for this vineyard
 Which thou art spoiling died, are still alive!
 Well canst thou say: "So steadfast my desire
 Is unto him who willed to live alone,
 And for a dance was led to martyrdom,
 That I know not the Fisherman nor Paul."
 18.136
 18
 NOW was alone rejoicing in its word
 That soul beatified, and I was tasting
 My own, the bitter tempering with the sweet,
 And the Lady who to God was leading me
 L1[I] Said: "Change thy thought; consider that I am
 5 Near unto Him who every wrong disburdens."
 Unto the loving accents of my comfort
 I turned me round, and then what love I saw
 Within those holy eyes I here relinquish;
 10 Not only that my language I distrust,
 But that my mind cannot return so far
 Above itself, unless another guide it.
 Thus much upon that point can I repeat,
 That, her again beholding, my affection
 18.14
 1
 MIDWAY upon the journey of our life
 I found myself within a forest dark,
 For the straightforward pathway had been lost.
 Ah me! how hard a thing it is to say
 What was this forest savage, rough, and stern,
 5 Which in the very thought renews the fear.
 So bitter is it, death is little more;
 But of the good to treat, which there I found,
 Speak will I of the other things I saw there.
 I cannot well repeat how there I entered,
 10 So full was I of slumber at the moment
 In which I had abandoned the true way.
 But after I had reached a mountain's foot,
 At that point where the valley terminated,

18.65	Of time, in a pale woman, when her face	2 (1C)	And many folk has caused to live forlorn!	1.51
Divine I Comedy	Is from the load of bashfulness unladen,		She brought upon me so much heaviness,	Divine I Comedy
	Such was it in mine eyes, when I had turned,		With the affright that from her aspect came,	
	Caused by the whiteness of the temperate star,		That I the hope relinquished of the height.	
	The sixth, which to itself had gathered me.		And as he is who willingly acquires,	55
70	Within that Jovial torch did I behold		And the time comes that causes him to lose,	
	The sparkling of the love which was therein		Who weeps in all his thoughts and is despondent,	
	Delineate our language to mine eyes.		E'en such made me that beast withouten peace,	
	And even as birds uprisen from the shore,		Which, coming on against me by degrees,	
	As in congratulation o'er their food,		Thrust me back thither where the sun is silent.	60
75	Make squadrons of themselves, now round, now long,		While I was rushing downward to the lowland,	
	So from within those lights the holy creatures		Before mine eyes did one present himself,	
	Sang flying to and fro, and in their figures		Who seemed from long-continued silence hoarse.	
	Made of themselves now D, now I, now L.		When I beheld him in the desert vast,	
	First singing they to their own music moved;		"Have pity on me," unto him I cried,	65
80	Then one becoming of these characters,		"Whiche'er thou art, or shade or real man!"	
	A little while they rested and were silent.		He answered me: "Not man; man once I was,	
	O divine Pegasea, thou who genius		And both my parents were of Lombardy,	
	Dost glorious make, and render it long-lived,		And Mantuans by country both of them.	
	And this through thee the cities and the kingdoms,		<i>Sub Julio</i> was I born, though it was late,	70
85	Illume me with thyself, that I may bring		And lived at Rome under the good Augustus,	
♦	Their figures out as I have them conceived!		During the time of false and lying gods.	
	Apparent be thy power in these brief verses!		A Poet was I, and I sang that just	
	Themselves then they displayed in five times seven		Son of Anchises, who came forth from Troy,	
	Vowels and consonants; and I observed		After that Ilion the superb was burned.	75
L2[O] 90	The parts as they seemed spoken unto me.		But thou, why goest thou back to such annoyance?	L2[O]
	<i>Diligite justitiam</i> , these were		Why climb'st thou not the Mount Delectable,	
	First verb and noun of all that was depicted;		Which is the source and cause of every joy?"	
	<i>Qui judicatis terram</i> were the last.		"Now, art thou that Virgilius and that fountain	
	Thereafter in the M of the fifth word		Which spreads abroad so wide a river of speech?"	80
95	Remained they so arranged, that Jupiter	2 (1C)	I made response to him with bashful forehead.	
	Seemed to be silver there with gold inlaid.		"O, of the other poets honor and light,	
	And other lights I saw descend where was		Avail me the long study and great love	
	The summit of the M, and pause there singing		That have impelled me to explore thy volume!	
	The good, I think, that draws them to itself.		Thou art my master, and my author thou,	85
18.100	Then, as in striking upon burning logs		Thou art alone the one from whom I took	
	Upward there fly innumerable sparks,		The beautiful style that has done honor to me.	
	Whence fools are wont to look for auguries,	3	Behold the beast, for which I have turned back;	
	More than a thousand lights seemed thence to rise,		Do thou protect me from her, famous Sage,	
	And to ascend, some more, and others less,		For she doth make my veins and pulses tremble."	90
105	Even as the Sun that lights them had allotted;		"Thee it behoves to take another road,"	
	And, each one being quiet in its place,		Responded he, when he beheld me weeping,	
	The head and neck beheld I of an eagle		"If from this savage place thou wouldst escape;	
	Delineated by that inlaid fire.		Because this beast, at which thou criest out,	
	He who there paints has none to be his guide;		Suffers not any one to pass her way,	95
110	But Himself guides; and is from Him remembered	⑦	But so doth harass him, that she destroys him;	
	That virtue which is form unto the nest.		And has a nature so malign and ruthless,	
	The other beatitude, that contented seemed		That never doth she glut her greedy will,	
	At first to bloom a lily on the M,		And after food is hungrier than before.	
250 18.114	By a slight motion followed out the imprint.	4	Many the animals with whom she weds,	1.100 100

1.101 And more they shall be still, until the Greyhound
Comes, who shall make her perish in her pain.
He shall not feed on either earth or pelf,
But upon wisdom, and on love and virtue;
105 'Twixt Feltro and Feltro shall his nation be;
Of that low Italy shall he be the savior,
On whose account the maid Camilla died,
Euryalus, Turnus, Nisus, of their wounds;
Through every city shall he hunt her down,
110 Until he shall have driven her back to Hell,
There from whence envy first did let her loose.
Therefore I think and judge it for thy best
Thou follow me, and I will be thy guide,
And lead thee hence through the eternal place,
115 Where thou shalt hear the desperate lamentations,
Shalt see the ancient spirits disconsolate,
Who cry out each one for the second death;
And thou shalt see those who contented are
Within the fire, because they hope to come,
120 Whene'er it may be, to the blessed people;
To whom, then, if thou wishest to ascend,
♦ A soul shall be for that than I more worthy;
With her at my departure I will leave thee;
Because that Emperor, who reigns above,
125 In that I was rebellious to his law,
L2[I] Wills that through me none come into his city.
He governs everywhere, and there he reigns;
There is his city and his lofty throne;
O happy he whom thereto he elects!"
130 And I to him: "Poet, I thee entreat,
By that same God whom thou didst never know,
So that I may escape this woe and worse,
Thou wouldst conduct me there where thou hast said,
That I may see the portal of Saint Peter,
And those thou makest so disconsolate."
1.136 Then he moved on, and I behind him followed.
18 **N**OW was alone rejoicing in its ^{P MID I} world
That soul beatified, and I was tasting
My own, the bitter tempering with the sweet,
And the Lady who to God was leading me
5 Said: "Change thy thought; consider that I am
Near unto Him who every wrong disburdens."
Unto the loving accents of my comfort
I turned me round, and then what love I saw
Within those holy eyes I here relinquish;
10 Not only that my language I distrust,
But that my mind cannot return so far
Above itself, unless another guide it.
Thus much upon that point can I repeat,
15 18.14 That, her again beholding, my affection

3 (2C) From every other longing was released. 18.15
While the eternal pleasure, which direct
Rayed upon Beatrice, from her fair face
Contented me with its reflected aspect,
Conquering me with the radiance of a smile,
She said to me, "Turn thee about and listen; 20
Not in mine eyes alone is Paradise."
Even as sometimes here do we behold
The affection in the look, if it be such
That all the soul is wrapt away by it,
So, by the flaming of the effulgence holy 25
To which I turned, I recognized therein
The wish of speaking to me somewhat farther.
And it began: "In this fifth resting-place
Upon the tree that liveth by its summit,
And aye bears fruit, and never loses leaf, 30
Are blessed spirits that below, ere yet
They came to Heaven, were of such great renown
That every Muse therewith would affluent be.
Therefore look thou upon the cross's horns;
He whom I now shall name will there enact 35
What doth within a cloud its own swift fire."
I saw athwart the Cross a splendor drawn
By naming Joshua, (even as he did it,)
Nor noted I the word before the deed;
And at the name of the great Maccabee 40 L2[I]
I saw another move itself revolving,
And gladness was the whip unto that top.
Likewise for Charlemagne and for Orlando,
Two of them my regard attentive followed
As followeth the eye its falcon flying. 45
William thereafterward, and Renouard,
And the Duke Godfrey, did attract my sight
Along upon that Cross, and Robert Guiscard.
Then, moved and mingled with the other lights,
The soul that had addressed me showed how great 18.50
An artist 't was among the heavenly singers.
To my right side I turned myself around,
My duty to behold in Beatrice
Either by words or gesture signified;
And so translucent I beheld her eyes, 55
So full of pleasure, that her countenance
Surpassed its other and its latest wont.
And as, by feeling greater delectation,
A man in doing good from day to day
Becomes aware his virtue is increasing,
So I became aware that my gyration 60
With heaven together had increased its arc,
That miracle beholding more adorned.
And such as is the change, in little lapse 18.64 200

3.8 ONLY ETERNE, AND I ETERNAL LAST.

Divine Comedy II

These words in sombre color I beheld
Written upon the summit of a gate;
Whence I: "Their sense is, Master, hard to me!"
And he to me, as one experienced:
"Here all suspicion needs must be abandoned,
All cowardice must needs be here extinct.
We to the place have come, where I have told thee
Thou shalt behold the people dolorous
Who have foregone the good of intellect."
And after he had laid his hand on mine
With joyful mien, whence I was comforted,
He led me in among the secret things.
There sighs, complaints, and ululations loud
Resounded through the air without a star,
Whence I, at the beginning, wept thereat.
Languages diverse, horrible dialects,
Accents of anger, words of agony,
And voices high and hoarse, with sound of hands,
Made up a tumult that goes whirling on
For ever in that air forever black,
Even as the sand doth, when the whirlwind breathes.
And I, who had my head with horror bound,
Said: "Master, what is this which now I hear?
What folk is this, which seems by pain so vanquished?"
And he to me: "This miserable mode
Maintain the melancholy souls of those
Who lived withouten infamy or praise.
Commingled are they with that caitiff choir
Of Angels, who have not rebellious been,
Nor faithful were to God, but were for self.
The heavens expelled them, not to be less fair;
Nor them the nethermore abyss receives,
For glory none the damned would have from them."
And I: "O Master, what so grievous is
To these, that maketh them lament so sore?"
He answered: "I will tell thee very briefly.
These have no longer any hope of death;
And this blind life of theirs is so debased,
They envious are of every other fate.
No fame of them the world permits to be;
Misericord and Justice both disdain them.
Let us not speak of them, but look, and pass."
And I, who looked again, beheld a banner,
Which, whirling round, ran on so rapidly,
That of all pause it seemed to me indignant;
And after it there came so long a train
Of people, that I ne'er would have believed
That ever Death so many had undone.

4

7

II

LONGFELLOW
DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY



EPIC POEM

.ORG
DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

2
1

AWARE: 2 THEN 1
VS 1 THEN 2 IN
INTERLEAVED

2L A 4, 2, 3.57
3L B 3.58, 3.121
2L C 3.122, 1, 2

QUICK START

4 [1] 3 [430]
2 [152] 1 [560]
3 [294] 2 [702]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Inferno 4: 151 2: 142 3: 136 = 429
Paradiso 3: 130 1: 142 2: 148 = 420

1

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
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II

7

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EPICPOEM.ORG 849 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

PRINT
2-SIDED:
6 to 15

7

6

350

3.57

4 **B**ROKE the deep lethargy within my head
 A heavy thunder, so that I upstarted,
 Like to a person who by force is wakened;
 And round about I moved my rested eyes,
 5 Uprisen erect, and steadfastly I gazed,
 To recognise the place wherein I was.
 True is it, that upon the verge I found me
 Of the abysmal valley dolorous,
 That gathers thunder of infinite ululations.
 10 Obscure, profound it was, and nebulous,
 So that by fixing on its depths my sight
 Nothing whatever I discerned therein.
 “Let us descend now into the blind world,”
 Began the Poet, pallid utterly;
 15 “I will be first, and thou shalt second be.”
 And I, who of his color was aware,
 Said: “How shall I come, if thou art afraid,
 Who ’rt wont to be a comfort to my fears?”
 And he to me: “The anguish of the people
 20 Who are below here in my face depicts
 That pity which for terror thou hast taken.
 Let us go on, for the long way impels us.”
 Thus he went in, and thus he made me enter
 The foremost circle that surrounds the abyss.
 25 There, in so far as I had power to hear,
L1[I] Were lamentations none, but only sighs,
A That tremulous made the everlasting air.
 And this arose from sorrow without torment,
 Which the crowds had, that many were and great
 30 Of infants and of women and of men.
 To me the Master good: “Thou dost not ask
 What spirits these, which thou beholdest, are?
 Now will I have thee know, ere thou go farther,
 That they sinned not; and if they merit had,
 35 ’T is not enough, because they had not baptism,
 Which is the portal of the Faith thou holdest;
 And if they were before Christianity,
 In the right manner they adored not God;
 And among such as these am I myself.
 40 For such defects, and not for other guilt,
 Lost are we, and are only so far punished,
 That without hope we live on in desire.”
 Great grief seized on my heart when this I heard,
 Because some people of much worthiness
 45 I knew, who in that Limbo were suspended.
 “Tell me, my Master, tell me, thou my Lord,”
 Began I, with desire of being certain
 Of that Faith which o’ercometh every error,
 “Came any one by his own merit hence,
 Or by another’s, who was blessed thereafter?”

5 (3C)

2 (1C)

2

⑦



7

Lucia, foe of all that cruel is, 2.100
 Hastened away, and came unto the place
 Where I was sitting with the ancient Rachel.
 “Beatrice” said she, “the true praise of God,
 Why succorest thou not him, who loved thee so,
 For thee he issued from the vulgar herd? 105
 Dost thou not hear the pity of his plaint?
 Dost thou not see the death that combats him
 Beside that flood, where ocean has no vaunt?”
 Never were persons in the world so swift
 To work their weal and to escape their woe, 110
 As I, after such words as these were uttered,
 Came hither downward from my blessed seat,
 Confiding in thy dignified discourse,
 Which honors thee, and those who’ve listened to it.’
 After she thus had spoken unto me, 115
 Weeping, her shining eyes she turned away;
 Whereby she made me swifter in my coming;
 And unto thee I came, as she desired;
 I have delivered thee from that wild beast,
 Which barred the beautiful mountain’s short ascent. 120
 What is it, then? Why, why dost thou delay?
 Why is such baseness bedded in thy heart?
 Daring and hardihood why hast thou not,
 Seeing that three such Ladies benedight
 Are caring for thee in the court of Heaven, **L1[I]**
 And so much good my speech doth promise thee?” **A**
 Even as the flowerets, by nocturnal chill,
 Bowed down and closed, when the sun whitens them,
 Uplift themselves all open on their stems;
 Such I became with my exhausted strength, 130
 And such good courage to my heart there coursed,
 That I began, like an intrepid person:
 “O she compassionate, who succored me,
 And courteous thou, who hast obeyed so soon
 The words of truth which she addressed to thee! 135
 Thou hast my heart so with desire disposed
 To the adventure, with these words of thine,
 That to my first intent I have returned.
 Now go, for one sole will is in us both,
 Thou Leader, and thou Lord, and Master thou.” 140
 Thus said I to him; and when he had moved,
 I entered on the deep and savage way. 2.142

THROUGH ME THE WAY IS TO THE CITY DOLENT; **o-w 0 3**
THROUGH ME THE WAY IS TO ETERNAL DOLE;
THROUGH ME THE WAY AMONG THE PEOPLE LOST.
JUSTICE INCITED MY SUBLIME CREATOR;
CREATED ME DIVINE OMNIPOTENCE,
THE HIGHEST WISDOM AND THE PRIMAL LOVE.
BEFORE ME THERE WERE NO CREATED THINGS, 3.7 **300**

2.50	I 'll tell thee why I came, and what I heard	6 (4C)	And he, who understood my covert speech,	4.51
Divine II Comedy	At the first moment when I grieved for thee.		Replied: "I was a novice in this state,	Divine II Comedy
	Among those was I who are in suspense,		When I saw hither come a Mighty One,	
	And a fair, saintly Lady called to me		With sign of victory incoronate.	
	In such wise, I besought her to command me.		Hence he drew forth the shade of the First Parent,	55
55	Her eyes were shining brighter than the Star;		And that of his son Abel, and of Noah,	
	And she began to say, gentle and low,		Of Moses the lawgiver, and the obedient	
	With voice angelical, in her own language:		Abraham, patriarch, and David, king,	
	'O spirit courteous of Mantua,		Israel with his father and his children,	
	Of whom the fame still in the world endures,		And Rachel, for whose sake he did so much,	60
60	And shall endure, long-lasting as the world;		And others many, and he made them blessed;	
	A friend of mine, and not the friend of fortune,		And thou must know, that earlier than these	
	Upon the desert slope is so impeded		Never were any human spirits saved."	
	Upon his way, that he has turned through terror,		We ceased not to advance because he spake,	
	And may, I fear, already be so lost,		But still were passing onward through the forest,	65
65	That I too late have risen to his succor,		The forest, say I, of thick-crowded ghosts.	
	From that which I have heard of him in Heaven.		Not very far as yet our way had gone	
	Bestir thee now, and with thy speech ornate,		This side the summit, when I saw a fire	
	And with what needful is for his release,		That overcame a hemisphere of darkness.	
	Assist him so, that I may be consoled.		We were a little distant from it still,	70
70	Beatrice am I, who do bid thee go;		But not so far that I in part discerned not	
	I come from there, where I would fain return;		That honorable people held that place.	
	Love moved me, which compelleth me to speak.		"O thou who honorest every art and science,	
	When I shall be in presence of my Lord,		Who may these be, which such great honor have,	
	Full often will I praise thee unto him.'		That from the fashion of the rest it parts them?"	75
L2[O]	Then paused she, and thereafter I began:		And he to me: "The honorable name,	L2[O]
A	'O Lady of virtue, thou alone through whom		That sounds of them above there in thy life,	A
	The human race exceedeth all contained		Wins grace in Heaven, that so advances them."	
	Within the heaven that has the lesser circles,		In the mean time a voice was heard by me:	
	So grateful unto me is thy commandment,		"All honor be to the pre-eminent Poet;	80
80	To obey, if 't were already done, were late;	3 (2C)	His shade returns again, that was departed."	
	No farther need'st thou ope to me thy wish.		After the voice had ceased and quiet was,	
	But the cause tell me why thou dost not shun		Four mighty shades I saw approaching us;	
	The here descending down into this centre,		Semblance had they nor sorrowful nor glad.	
	From the vast place thou burnest to return to.'		To say to me began my gracious Master:	85
85	'Since thou wouldst fain so inwardly discern,		"Him with that falchion in his hand behold,	
	Briefly will I relate,' she answered me,		Who comes before the three, even as their lord.	
	'Why I am not afraid to enter here.		That one is Homer, Poet sovereign;	
	Of those things only should one be afraid	3	He who comes next is Horace, the satirist;	
	Which have the power of doing others harm;		The third is Ovid, and the last is Lucan.	90
90	Of the rest, no; because they are not fearful.		Because to each of these with me applies	
	God in his mercy such created me		The name that solitary voice proclaimed,	
	That misery of yours attains me not,		They do me honor, and in that do well."	
	Nor any flame assails me of this burning.		Thus I beheld assemble the fair school	
	A gentle Lady is in Heaven, who grieves		Of that lord of the song pre-eminent,	95
95	At this impediment, to which I send thee,	⑦	Who o'er the others like an eagle soars.	
	So that stern judgment there above is broken.		When they together had discoursed somewhat,	
	In her entreaty she besought Lucia,		They turned to me with signs of salutation,	
250 ♦	And said, "Thy faithful one now stands in need		And on beholding this, my Master smiled;	
2.99	Of thee, and unto thee I recommend him."	8	And more of honor still, much more, they did me,	4.100 100

4.101 In that they made me one of their own band;
 So that the sixth was I, 'mid so much wit.
 Thus we went on as far as to the light,
 Things saying 'tis becoming to keep silent,
 105 As was the saying of them where I was.
 We came unto a noble castle's foot,
 Seven times encompassed with lofty walls,
 Defended round by a fair rivulet;
 This we passed over even as firm ground;
 110 Through portals seven I entered with these Sages;
 We came into a meadow of fresh verdure.
 People were there with solemn eyes and slow,
 Of great authority in their countenance;
 They spake but seldom, and with gentle voices.
 115 Thus we withdrew ourselves upon one side
 Into an opening luminous and lofty,
 So that they all of them were visible.
 There opposite, upon the green enamel,
 Were pointed out to me the mighty spirits,
 120 Whom to have seen I feel myself exalted.
 I saw Electra with companions many,
 'Mongst whom I knew both Hector and Aeneas,
 Caesar in armor with gerfalcon eyes;
 I saw Camilla and Penthesilea
 125 On the other side, and saw the King Latinus,
 L2[I] Who with Lavinia his daughter sat;
 A I saw that Brutus who drove Tarquin forth,
 Lucretia, Julia, Marcia, and Cornelia,
 And saw alone, apart, the Saladin.
 130 When I had lifted up my brows a little,
 The Master I beheld of those who know,
 Sit with his philosophic family.
 All gaze upon him, and all do him honor.
 There I beheld both Socrates and Plato,
 135 Who nearer him before the others stand;
 Democritus, who puts the world on chance,
 Diogenes, Anaxagoras, and Thales,
 Zeno, Empedocles, and Heraclitus;
 Of qualities I saw the good collector,
 140 Hight Dioscorides; and Orpheus saw I,
 Tully and Livy, and moral Seneca,
 Euclid, geometrician, and Ptolemy,
 Galen, Hippocrates, and Avicenna,
 Averroes, who the great Comment made.
 145 I cannot all of them portray in full,
 Because so drives me onward the long theme,
 That many times the word comes short of fact.
 The sixfold company in two divides;
 ♦ Another way my sapient Guide conducts me
 150 4.150 Forth from the quiet to the air that trembles;

7 (5C)

4 (3C)

4

⑦

9

And to a place I come where nothing shines.
 DAY was departing, and the embrowned air
 Released the animals that are on earth
 From their fatigues; and I the only one
 Made myself ready to sustain the war,
 Both of the way and likewise of the woe,
 Which memory that errs not shall retrace.
 O Muses, O high genius, now assist me!
 O memory, that didst write down what I saw,
 Here thy nobility shall be manifest!
 And I began: "Poet, who guidest me,
 Regard my manhood, if it be sufficient.
 Ere to the arduous pass thou dost confide me.
 Thou sayest, that of Silvius the parent,
 While yet corruptible, unto the world
 Immortal went, and was there bodily.
 But if the adversary of all evil
 Was courteous, thinking of the high effect
 That issue would from him, and who, and what,
 To men of intellect unmeet it seems not;
 For he was of great Rome, and of her empire
 In the empyreal heaven as father chosen;
 The which and what, wishing to speak the truth,
 Were stablished as the holy place, wherein
 Sits the successor of the greatest Peter.
 Upon this journey, whence thou givest him vaunt,
 Things did he hear, which the occasion were
 Both of his victory and the papal mantle.
 Thither went afterwards the Chosen Vessel,
 To bring back comfort thence unto that Faith,
 Which of salvation's way is the beginning.
 But I, why thither come, or who concedes it?
 I not Aeneas am, I am not Paul,
 Nor I, nor others, think me worthy of it.
 Therefore, if I resign myself to come,
 I fear the coming may be ill-advised;
 Thou 'rt wise, and knowest better than I speak."
 And as he is, who unwill's what he willed,
 And by new thoughts doth his intention change,
 So that from his design he quite withdraws,
 Such I became, upon that dark hillside,
 Because, in thinking, I consumed the emprise,
 Which was so very prompt in the beginning.
 "If I have well thy language understood,"
 Replied that shade of the Magnanimous,
 "Thy soul attainted is with cowardice,
 Which many times a man encumbers so,
 It turns him back from honored enterprise,
 As false sight doth a beast, when he is shy.
 That thou mayst free thee from this apprehension,

4.151

2

5

10

15

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L2[I]

A

30

35

40

45

Divine
II
Comedy

2.50

200

3.72 For what we have, nor gives us thirst for more.
 Divine If to be more exalted we aspired,
 II Discordant would our aspirations be
 Comedy 75 Unto the will of Him who here secludes us;
 Which thou shalt see finds no place in these circles,
 If being in charity is needful here,
 And if thou lookest well into its nature;
 80 Nay, 't is essential to this blest existence
 To keep itself within the will divine,
 Whereby our very wishes are made one;
 So that, as we are station above station
 Throughout this realm, to all the realm 't is pleasing,
 As to the King, who makes his will our will.
 85 And his will is our peace; this is the sea
 To which is moving onward whatsoever
 It doth create, and all that nature makes."
 Then it was clear to me how everywhere
 In heaven is Paradise, although the grace
 90 Of good supreme there rain not in one measure.
 But as it comes to pass, if one food sates,
 And for another still remains the longing,
 We ask for this, and that decline with thanks,
 E'en thus did I, with gesture and with word,
 95 To learn from her what was the web wherein
 She did not ply the shuttle to the end.
 L1[O] "A perfect life and merit high in-heaven
 B A lady o'er us," said she, "by whose rule
 Down in your world they vest and veil themselves,
 3.100 That until death they may both watch and sleep
 Beside that Spouse who every vow accepts
 Which charity conformeth to his pleasure.
 To follow her, in girlhood from the world
 I fled, and in her habit shut myself,
 105 And pledged me to the pathway of her sect.
 Then men accustomed unto evil more
 Than unto good, from the sweet cloister tore me;
 God knows what afterward my life became.
 This other splendor, which to thee reveals
 110 Itself on my right side, and is enkindled
 With all the illumination of our sphere,
 What of myself I say applies to her;
 A nun was she, and likewise from her head
 Was ta'en the shadow of the sacred wimple.
 115 But when she too was to the world returned
 Against her wishes and against good usage,
 Of the heart's veil she never was divested.
 Of great Costanza this is the effulgence,
 Who from the second wind of Suabia
 Brought forth the third and latest puissance."
 ♦ 3.121 Thus unto me she spake, and then began

8 (6C)

5 (4C)

5

⑦

10

When some among them I had recognised,
 I looked, and I beheld the shade of him
 Who made through cowardice the great refusal.
 Forthwith I comprehended, and was certain,
 That this the sect was of the caitiff wretches
 Hateful to God and to his enemies.
 These miscreants, who never were alive,
 Were naked, and were stung exceedingly
 65 By gadflies and by hornets that were there.
 These did their faces irrigate with blood,
 Which, with their tears commingled, at their feet
 By the disgusting worms was gathered up.
 And when to gazing farther I betook me.
 70 People I saw on a great river's bank;
 Whence said I: "Master, now vouchsafe to me,
 That I may know who these are, and what law
 Makes them appear so ready to pass over,
 As I discern athwart the dusky light."
 75 And he to me: "These things shall all be known
 To thee, as soon as we our footsteps stay
 Upon the dismal shore of Acheron."
 Then with mine eyes ashamed and downward cast,
 Fearing my words might irksome be to him,
 80 From speech refrained I till we reached the river.
 And lo! towards us coming in a boat
 An old man, hoary with the hair of eld,
 L1[O] Crying: "Woe unto you, ye souls depraved
 B Hope nevermore to look upon the heavens;
 I come to lead you to the other shore,
 To the eternal shades in heat and frost.
 And thou, that yonder standest, living soul,
 Withdraw thee from these people, who are dead!
 90 But when he saw that I did not withdraw,
 He said: "By other ways, by other ports
 Thou to the shore shalt come, not here, for passage;
 A lighter vessel needs must carry thee."
 And unto him the Guide: "Vex thee not, Charon;
 95 It is so willed there where is power to do
 That which is willed; and farther question not."
 Thereat were quieted the fleecy cheeks
 Of him the ferryman of the livid fen,
 Who round about his eyes had wheels of flame.
 But all those souls who weary were and naked
 3.100 Their color changed and gnashed their teeth together,
 As soon as they had heard those cruel words.
 God they blasphemed and their progenitors,
 The human race, the place, the time, the seed
 Of their engendering and of their birth!
 Thereafter all together they drew back,
 Bitterly weeping, to the accursed shore,

3.58

Divine
II
Comedy

65

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75

80

L1[O]

B

90

95

3.100

3.107

400

3.108 Which waiteth every man who fears not God.
Charon the demon, with the eyes of glede,
Beckoning to them, collects them all together,
Beats with his oar whoever lags behind.
As in the autumn-time the leaves fall off,
First one and then another, till the branch
Unto the earth surrenders all its spoils;
115 In similar wise the evil seed of Adam
Throw themselves from that margin one by one,
At signals, as a bird unto its lure.
So they depart across the dusky wave,
And ere upon the other side they land,
120 Again on this side a new troop assembles.
“My son,” the courteous Master said to me,
“All those who perish in the wrath of God
Here meet together out of every land;
And ready are they to pass o’er the river,
125 Because celestial Justice spurs them on,
So that their fear is turned into desire.
This way there never passes a good soul;
And hence if Charon doth complain of thee,
Well mayst thou know now what his speech imports.”
130 This being finished, all the dusk campaign
Trembled so violently, that of that terror
The recollection bathes me still with sweat.
L1[I] The land of tears gave forth a blast of wind,
B And fulminated a vermilion light,
Which overmastered in me every sense,
3.136 **T** And as a man whom sleep hath seized I fell.
3 HAT Sun, which erst with love my bosom warmed,
Of beauteous truth had unto me discovered,
By proving and reproving, the sweet aspect.
And, that I might confess myself convinced
5 And confident, so far as was befitting,
I lifted more erect my head to speak.
But there appeared a vision, which withdrew me
So close to it, in order to be seen,
That my confession I remembered not.
10 Such as through polished and transparent glass,
Or waters crystalline and undisturbed,
But not so deep as that their bed be lost,
Come back again the outlines of our faces
So feeble, that a pearl on forehead white
15 Comes not less speedily unto our eyes;
Such saw I many faces prompt to speak,
So that I ran in error opposite
To that which kindled love ’twixt man and fountain.
As soon as I became aware of them,
Esteeming them as mirrored semblances,
450 3.21 To see of whom they were, mine eyes I turned,

9 (7C) And nothing saw, and once more turned them forward
3.22 Direct into the light of my sweet Guide,
Who smiling kindled in her holy eyes.
25 “Marvel thou not,” she said to me, “because
I smile at this thy puerile conceit,
Since on the truth it trusts not yet its foot,
But turns thee, as ’t is wont, on emptiness.
True substances are these which thou beholdest,
30 Here relegate for breaking of some vow.
Therefore speak with them, listen and believe;
For the true light, which giveth peace to them,
Permits them not to turn from it their feet.”
And I unto the shade that seemed most wishful
35 To speak directed me, and I began,
As one whom too great eagerness bewilders:
“O well-created spirit, who in the rays
Of life eternal dost the sweetness taste
Which being untasted ne’er is comprehended,
40 Grateful ’t will be to me, if thou content me
Both with thy name and with your destiny.”
Whereat she promptly and with laughing eyes:
“Our charity doth never shut the doors
Against a just desire, except as one
45 Who wills that **all** her court be **like herself**.
I was a virgin sister in the world;
And if thy mind doth contemplate me well, L1[I]
The being more fair will not conceal me from thee, B
But thou shalt recognise I am Piccarda,
3.50 Who, stationed here among these other blessed,
Myself am blessed in the slowest sphere.
All our affections, that alone inflamed
Are in the pleasure of the Holy Ghost,
6 (5C) Rejoice at being of his order formed;
And this allotment, which appears so low, 55
Therefore is given us, because our vows
Have been neglected and in some part void.”
Whence I to her: “In your miraculous aspects
There shines I know not what of the divine,
60 Which doth transform you from our first conceptions.
Therefore I was not swift in my remembrance;
But what thou tellest me now aids me so,
That the refiguring is easier to me.
But tell me, ye who in this place are happy,
65 Are you desirous of a higher place,
To see more or to make yourselves more friends?”
First with those other shades she smiled a little;
Thereafter answered me so full of gladness,
She seemed to burn in the first fire of love:
“Brother, our will is quieted by virtue
Of charity, that makes us wish alone 3.71 500

1	THE glory of Him who moveth everything	10	"Ave Maria" singing, and in singing	3.122
Divine II Comedy	Doth penetrate the universe, and shine		Vanished, as through deep water something heavy.	Divine II Comedy
	In one part more and in another less.		My sight, that followed her as long a time	125
5	Within that heaven which most his light receives		As it was possible, when it had lost her	
	Was I, and things beheld which to repeat		Turned round unto the mark of more desire,	
	Nor knows, nor can, who from above descends;		And wholly unto Beatrice reverted;	
	Because in drawing near to its desire		But she such lightnings flashed into mine eyes,	
	Our intellect ingulphs itself so far,		That at the first my sight endured it not;	
	That after it the memory cannot go.		And this in questioning more backward made me.	3.130
10	Truly whatever of the holy realm		THE glory of Him who moveth everything	1
	I had the power to treasure in my mind		Doth penetrate the universe, and shine	
	Shall now become the subject of my song.		In one part more and in another less.	
	O good Apollo, for this last emprise		Within that heaven which most his light receives	
15	Make of me such a vessel of thy power		Was I, and things beheld which to repeat	5
	As giving the beloved laurel asks!		Nor knows, nor can, who from above descends;	
	One summit of Parnassus hitherto		Because in drawing near to its desire	
	Has been enough for me, but now with both		Our intellect ingulphs itself so far,	
	I needs must enter the arena left.		That after it the memory cannot go.	
20	Enter into my bosom, thou, and breathe		Truly whatever of the holy realm	10
	As at the time when Marsyas thou didst draw		I had the power to treasure in my mind	
	Out of the scabbard of those limbs of his.		Shall now become the subject of my song.	
	O power divine, lend'st thou thyself to me		O good Apollo, for this last emprise	
	So that the shadow of the blessed realm		Make of me such a vessel of thy power	
25	Stamped in my brain I can make manifest,		As giving the beloved laurel asks!	15
L1[O]	Thou 'lt see me come unto thy darling tree,		One summit of Parnassus hitherto	
C	And crown myself thereafter with those leaves		Has been enough for me, but now with both	L1[O]
	Of which the theme and thou shall make me worthy.		I needs must enter the arena left.	C
	So seldom, Father, do we gather them		Enter into my bosom, thou, and breathe	
	For triumph or of Caesar or of Poet,		As at the time when Marsyas thou didst draw	20
30	(The fault and shame of human inclinations,)		Out of the scabbard of those limbs of his.	
	That the Peneian foliage should bring forth		O power divine, lend'st thou thyself to me	
	Joy to the joyous Delphic deity,	7	So that the shadow of the blessed realm	
	When any one it makes to thirst for it.		Stamped in my brain I can make manifest,	
	A little spark is followed by great flame;		Thou 'lt see me come unto thy darling tree,	25
35	Perchance with better voices after me		And crown myself thereafter with those leaves	
	Shall prayer be made that Cyrrha may respond!		Of which the theme and thou shall make me worthy.	
	To mortal men by passages diverse		So seldom, Father, do we gather them	
	Uprises the world's lamp; but by that one		For triumph or of Caesar or of Poet,	
40	Which circles four uniteth with three crosses,	7	(The fault and shame of human inclinations,)	30
	With better course and with a better star		That the Peneian foliage should bring forth	
	Conjoined it issues, and the mundane wax		Joy to the joyous Delphic deity,	
	Tempers and stamps more after its own fashion.		When any one it makes to thirst for it.	
	Almost that passage had made morning there		A little spark is followed by great flame;	
	And evening here, and there was wholly white		Perchance with better voices after me	35
45	That hemisphere, and black the other part,		Shall prayer be made that Cyrrha may respond!	
	When Beatrice towards the left-hand side		To mortal men by passages diverse	
	I saw turned round, and gazing at the sun;		Uprises the world's lamp; but by that one	
	Never did eagle fasten so upon it!		Which circles four uniteth with three crosses,	
	And even as a second ray is wont		With better course and with a better star	
1.50	To issue from the first and reascend,		Conjoined it issues, and the mundane wax	1.41
	Like to a pilgrim who would fain return,			009

1.42 Tempers and stamps more after its own fashion.
 Almost that passage had made morning there
 And evening here, and there was wholly white
 45 That hemisphere, and black the other part,
 When Beatrice towards the left-hand side
 I saw turned round, and gazing at the sun;
 Never did eagle fasten so upon it!
 And even as a second ray is wont
 1.50 To issue from the first and reascend,
 Like to a pilgrim who would fain return,
 Thus of her action, through the eyes infused
 In my imagination, mine I made,
 And sunward fixed mine eyes beyond our wont.
 55 There much is lawful which is here unlawful
 Unto our powers, by virtue of the place
 Made for the human species as its own.
 Not long I bore it, nor so little while
 But I beheld it sparkle round about
 60 Like iron that comes molten from the fire;
 And suddenly it seemed that day to day
 Was added, as if He who has the power
 Had with another sun the heaven adorned.
 With eyes upon the everlasting wheels
 65 Stood Beatrice all intent, and I, on her
 Fixing my vision from above removed,
 L1[I] Such at her aspect inwardly became
 C As Glaucus, tasting of the herb that made him
 Peer of the other gods beneath the sea.
 70 To represent transhumanize in words
 Impossible were; the example, then, suffice
 Him for whom Grace the experience reserves.
 If I was merely what of me thou newly
 8 Createdst, Love who governest the heaven,
 75 Thou knowest, who didst lift me with thy light!
 When now the wheel, which thou dost make eternal
 Desiring thee, made me attentive to it
 By harmony thou dost modulate and measure,
 Then seemed to me so much of heaven enkindled
 80 By the sun's flame, that neither rain nor river
 E'er made a lake so widely spread abroad.
 The newness of the sound and the great light
 Kindled in me a longing for their cause,
 Never before with such acuteness felt;
 85 Whence she, who saw me as I saw myself,
 To quiet in me my perturbed mind,
 Opened her mouth, ere I did mine to ask,
 And she began: "Thou makest thyself so dull
 With false imagining, that thou seest not
 What thou wouldst see if thou hadst shaken it off.
 650 1.91 Thou art not upon earth, as thou believest;

Divine
II
Comedy

650

11 Released the animals that are on earth
 From their fatigues; and I the only one
 Made myself ready to sustain the war,
 5 Both of the way and likewise of the woe,
 Which memory that errs not shall retrace.
 O Muses, O high genius, now assist me!
 O memory, that didst write down what I saw,
 Here thy nobility shall be manifest!
 10 And I began: "Poet, who guidest me,
 Regard my manhood, if it be sufficient.
 Ere to the arduous pass thou dost confide me.
 Thou sayest, that of Silvius the parent,
 While yet corruptible, unto the world
 15 Immortal went, and was there bodily.
 But if the adversary of all evil
 Was courteous, thinking of the high effect
 That issue would from him, and who, and what,
 To men of intellect unmeet it seems not;
 20 For he was of great Rome, and of her empire
 In the empyreal heaven as father chosen;
 The which and what, wishing to speak the truth,
 Were stablished as the holy place, wherein
 Sits the successor of the greatest Peter.
 25 Upon this journey, whence thou givest him vaunt,
 Things did he hear, which the occasion were
 Both of his victory and the papal mantle.
 L1[I] Thither went afterwards the Chosen Vessel,
 C To bring back comfort thence unto that Faith,
 Which of salvation's way is the beginning.
 30 But I, why thither come, or who concedes it?
 I not Aeneas am, I am not Paul,
 8 Nor I, nor others, think me worthy of it.
 Therefore, if I resign myself to come,
 35 I fear the coming may be ill-advised;
 Thou 'rt wise, and knowest better than I speak."
 And as he is, who unwill's what he willed,
 And by new thoughts doth his intention change,
 So that from his design he quite withdraws,
 40 Such I became, upon that dark hillside,
 Because, in thinking, I consumed the emprise,
 Which was so very prompt in the beginning.
 "If I have well thy language understood,"
 Replied that shade of the Magnanimous,
 45 "Thy soul attainted is with cowardice,
 Which many times a man encumbers so,
 It turns him back from honored enterprise,
 As false sight doth a beast, when he is shy.
 That thou mayst free thee from this apprehension,
 I 'll tell thee why I came, and what I heard
 At the first moment when I grieved for thee.

Divine
II
Comedy

2.50
2.51

(7)

13

2.100 Turned towards these, cause that behind thy back
 Divine Be placed a light, illuming the three mirrors
 II And coming back to thee by all reflected.
 Comedy Though in its quantity be not so ample
 The image most remote, there shalt thou see
 105 How it perforce is equally resplendent.
 Now, as beneath the touches of warm rays
 Naked the subject of the snow remains
 Both of its former color and its cold,
 Thee, thus remaining in thy intellect,
 110 Will I inform with such a living light,
 That it shall tremble in its aspect to thee.
 Within the heaven of the divine repose
 Revolves a body, in whose virtue lies
 The being of whatever it contains.
 115 The following heaven, that has so many eyes,
 Divides this being by essences diverse,
 Distinguished from it, and by it contained.
 The other spheres, by various differences,
 All the distinctions which they have within them
 120 Dispose unto their ends and their effects.
 Thus do these organs of the world proceed,
 As thou perceivest now, from grade to grade
 Since from above they take, and act beneath.
 Observe me well, how through this place I come
 L2[O] Unto the truth thou wishest, that hereafter
 C Thou mayst alone know how to keep the ford.
 The power and motion of the holy spheres,
 As from the artisan the hammer's craft,
 Forth from the blessed motors must proceed.
 130 The heaven, which lights so manifold make fair,
 From the Intelligence profound, which turns it.
 The image takes, and makes of it a seal.
 And even as the soul within your dust
 Through members different and accommodated
 135 To faculties diverse expands itself,
 So likewise this Intelligence diffuses
 Its virtue multiplied among the stars,
 Itsself revolving on its unity.
 140 Virtue diverse doth a diverse alloyage
 Make with the precious body that it quickens,
 In which, as life in you, it is combined.
 From the glad nature whence it is derived,
 The mingled virtue through the body shines,
 Even as gladness through the living pupil.
 145 From this proceeds whate'er from light to light
 Appareth different, not from dense and rare:
 This is the formal principle that produces,

12 But lightning, fleeing its appropriate site,
 Ne'er ran as thou, who thitherward returnest."
 If of my former doubt I was divested
 By these brief little words more smiled than spoken,
 I in a new one was the more ensnared;
 And said: "Already did I rest content
 From great amazement; but am now amazed
 In what way I transcend these bodies light."
 Whereupon she, after a pitying sigh, 1.100
 Her eyes directed tow'rds me with that look
 A mother casts on a delirious child;
 And she began: "All things whate'er they be
 Have order among themselves, and this is form,
 That makes the universe resemble God. 105
 Here do the higher creatures see the footprints
 Of the Eternal Power, which is the end
 Where to is made the law already mentioned.
 In the order that I speak of are inclined
 All natures, by their destinies diverse, 110
 More or less near unto their origin;
 Hence they move onward unto ports diverse
 O'er the great sea of being; and each one
 With instinct given it which bears it on.
 This bears away the fire towards the moon; 115
 This is in mortal hearts the motive power;
 This binds together and unites the earth. L2[O]
 Nor only the created things that are C
 Without intelligence this bow shoots forth,
 But those that have both intellect and love. 120
 The Providence that regulates all this
 Makes with its light the heaven forever quiet,
 Wherein that turns which has the greatest haste.
 And thither now, as to a site decreed,
 Bears us away the virtue of that cord 125
 Which aims its arrows at a joyous mark.
 True is it, that as oftentimes the form
 Accords not with the intention of the art,
 Because in answering is matter deaf,
 So likewise from this course doth deviate 130
 Sometimes the creature, who the power possesses,
 Though thus impelled, to swerve some other way,
 (In the same wise as one may see the fire
 Fall from a cloud,) if the first impetus
 Earthward is wrested by some false delight. 135
 Thou shouldst not wonder more, if well I judge,
 At thine ascent, than at a rivulet
 From some high mount descending to the lowland.
 Marvel it would be in thee, if deprived
 Of hindrance, thou wert seated down below,
 As if on earth the living fire were quiet." 1.141 700

1.142 Thereat she heavenward turned again her face.
 2 **O** YE, who in some pretty little boat,
 Eager to listen, have been following
 Behind my ship, that singing sails along,
 Turn back to look again upon your shores;
 5 Do not put out to sea, lest peradventure,
 In losing me, you might yourselves be lost.
 The sea I sail has never yet been passed;
 Minerva breathes, and pilots me Apollo,
 And Muses nine point out to me the Bears.
 10 Ye other few who have the neck uplifted
 Betimes to th' bread of Angels upon which
 One liveth here and grows not sated by it,
 Well may you launch upon the deep salt-sea
 Your vessel, keeping still my wake before you
 15 Upon the water that grows smooth again.
 Those glorious ones who unto Colchos passed
 Were not so wonder-struck as you shall be,
 When Jason they beheld a ploughman made!
 The con-created and perpetual thirst
 20 For the realm deiform did bear us on,
 As swift almost as ye the heavens behold.
 Upward gazed Beatrice, and I at her;
 And in such space perchance as strikes a bolt
 And flies, and from the notch unlocks itself,
 L2[I] Arrived I saw me where a wondrous thing
 C Drew to itself my sight; and therefore she
 vP 1,000 From whom no care of mine could be concealed,
 Towards me turning, blithe as beautiful,
 Said unto me: "Fix gratefully thy mind
 30 On God, who unto the first star has brought us."
 It seemed to me a cloud encompassed us,
 Luminous, dense, consolidate and bright
 As adamant on which the sun is striking.
 Into itself did the eternal pearl
 35 Receive us, even as water doth receive
 A ray of light, remaining still unbroken.
 If I was body, (and we here conceive not
 How one dimension tolerates another,
 Which needs must be if body enter body,)
 40 More the desire should be enkindled in us
 That essence to behold, wherein is seen
 How God and our own nature were united.
 There will be seen what we receive by faith,
 Not demonstrated, but self-evident
 45 In guise of the first truth that man believes.
 I made reply: "Madonna, as devoutly
 As most I can do I give thanks to Him
 Who has removed me from the mortal world.
 750 2.49 But tell me what the dusky spots may be

13 (8C) Upon this body, which below on earth
 Make people tell that fabulous tale of Cain?"
 Somewhat she smiled; and then, "If the opinion
 Of mortals be erroneous," she said,
 "Where'er the key of sense doth not unlock,
 Certes, the shafts of wonder should not pierce thee
 55 Now, forasmuch as, following the senses,
 Thou seest that the reason has short wings.
 But tell me what thou think'st of it thyself."
 And I: "What seems to us up here diverse,
 Is caused, I think, by bodies rare and dense."
 60 And she: "Right truly shalt thou see immersed
 In error thy belief, if well thou hearest
 The argument that I shall make against it.
 Lights many the eighth sphere displays to you
 Which in their quality and quantity
 65 May noted be of aspects different.
 If this were caused by rare and dense alone,
 One only virtue would there be in all
 Or more or less diffused, or equally.
 Virtues diverse must be perforce the fruits
 70 Of formal principles; and these, save one,
 Of course would by thy reasoning be destroyed.
 Besides, if rarity were of this dimness
 The cause thou askest, either through and through
 This planet thus attenuate were of matter,
 L2[I] Or else, as in a body is apportioned
 C The fat and lean, so in like manner this
 Would in its volume interchange the leaves.
 Were it the former, in the sun's eclipse
 80 It would be manifest by the shining through,
 Of light, as through aught tenuous interfused.
 This is not so; hence we must scan the other,
 And if it chance the other I demolish,
 Then falsified will thy opinion be.
 But if this rarity go not through and through,
 85 There needs must be a limit, beyond which
 Its contrary prevents the further passing,
 And thence the foreign radiance is reflected,
 Even as a color cometh back from glass,
 The which behind itself concealeth lead.
 90 Now thou wilt say the sunbeam shows itself
 More dimly there than in the other parts,
 By being there reflected farther back.
 From this reply experiment will free thee
 If e'er thou try it, which is wont to be
 95 The fountain to the rivers of your arts.
 Three mirrors shalt thou take, and two remove
 Alike from thee, the other more remote
 Between the former two shall meet thine eyes.
 2.99 800

6.20 I now see clearly, even as thou seest
Divine Each contradiction to be false and true.
III As soon as with the Church I moved my feet,
Comedy God in his grace it pleased with this high task
To inspire me, and I gave me wholly to it,
25 And to my Belisarius I commended
The arms, to which was heaven's right hand so joined
It was a signal that I should repose.
Now here to the first question terminates
♦ My answer; but the character thereof
30 Constrains me to continue with a sequel,
In order that thou see with how great reason
Men move against the standard sacrosanct,
Both who appropriate and who oppose it.
Behold how great a power has made it worthy
35 Of reverence, beginning from the hour
When Pallas died to give it sovereignty.
Thou knowest it made in Alba its abode
Three hundred years and upward, till at last
The three to three fought for it yet again.
40 Thou knowest what it achieved from Sabine wrong
Down to Lucretia's sorrow, in seven kings
O'ercoming round about the neighboring nations;
Thou knowest what it achieved, borne by the Romans
Illustrious against Brennus, against Pyrrhus,
L1[O] Against the other princes and confederates.
A Torquatus thence and Quintius, who from locks
Unkempt was named, Decii and Fabii,
Received the fame I willingly embalm;
It struck to earth the pride of the Arabians,
6.50 Who, following Hannibal, had passed across
The Alpine ridges, Po, from which thou glidest;
Beneath it triumphed while they yet were young
Pompey and Scipio, and to the hill
Beneath which thou wast born it bitter seemed;
55 Then, near unto the time when heaven had willed
To bring the whole world to its mood serene,
Did Caesar by the will of Rome assume it.
What it achieved from Var unto the Rhine,
Isère beheld and Saône, beheld the Seine,
60 And every valley whence the Rhone is filled;
What it achieved when it had left Ravenna,
And leaped the Rubicon, was such a flight
That neither tongue nor pen could follow it.
Round towards Spain it wheeled its legions;
65 Towards Durazzo, and Pharsalia smote
That to the calid Nile was felt the pain.
Antandros and the Simois, whence it started,
It saw again, and there where Hector lies,
350 6.69 And ill for Ptolemy then roused itself.

14

1

1

7

16

7

III

LONGFELLOW

DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDYEPIC POEM
. O R G
DIGITAL CLASSICSBALANCED
MIDFILLS7
4

2L A 5, 4, 6.69

3L B 6.70, 5.127,

2L C 5.128, 7, 6

QUICK START

5	[1]	5	[424]
4	[139]	7	[566]
6	[282]	6	[696]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Paradiso	5: 139	4: 142	6: 142 = 423
Inferno	5: 142	7: 130	6: 115 = 387

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:

tri-Canti *descend* I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.Inferno tri-Canti *descend*;
Paradiso tri-Canti *ascend*;
Purgatorio tri-Canti *erased*.

III

7

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Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;PRINT
2-SIDED:
16 to 25

5 66 IF in the heat of love I flame upon thee
 Beyond the measure that on earth is seen,
 So that the valor of thine eyes I vanquish,
 Marvel thou not thereat; for this proceeds
 5 From perfect sight, which as it apprehends
 To the good apprehended moves its feet.
 Well I perceive how is already shining
 Into thine intellect the eternal light,
 That only seen enkindles always love;
 10 ♦ And if some other thing your love seduce,
 'T is nothing but a vestige of the same,
 Ill understood, which there is shining through.
 Thou fain wouldst know if with another service
 For broken vow can such return be made
 15 As to secure the soul from further claim."
 This Canto thus did Beatrice begin;
 And, as a man who breaks not off his speech,
 Continued thus her holy argument:
 "The greatest gift that in his largess God
 20 Creating made, and unto his own goodness
 Nearest conformed, and that which he doth prize
 Most highly, is the freedom of the will,
 Wherewith the creatures of intelligence
 Both all and only were and are endowed.
 25 Now wilt thou see, if thence thou reasonest,
 L1[I] The high worth of a vow, if it he made
 A So that when thou consentest God consents:
 For, closing between God and man the compact,
 A sacrifice is of this treasure made,
 30 Such as I say, and made by its own act.
 What can be rendered then as compensation?
 Think'st thou to make good use of what thou 'st offered,
 With gains ill gotten thou wouldst do good deed.
 Now art thou certain of the greater point;
 35 But because Holy Church in this dispenses,
 Which seems against the truth which I have shown thee,
 Behoves thee still to sit awhile at table,
 Because the solid food which thou hast taken
 Requireth further aid for thy digestion.
 40 Open thy mind to that which I reveal,
 And fix it there within; for 't is not knowledge,
 The having heard without retaining it.
 In the essence of this sacrifice two things
 Convene together; and the one is that
 45 Of which 't is made, the other is the agreement.
 This last forevermore is cancelled not
 Unless complied with, and concerning this
 Divine With such precision has above been spoken.
 III Comedy Therefore it was enjoined upon the Hebrews
 50 5.50 To offer still, though sometimes what was offered

15 (9C)

2 (1C)

2

⑦



17

Hence when Piccarda uses this expression,
 She meaneth the will absolute, and I
 The other, so that both of us speak truth."
 Such was the flowing of the holy river
 115 That issued from the fount whence springs all truth;
 This put to rest my wishes one and all.
 "O love of the first lover, O divine,"
 Said I forthwith, "whose speech inundates me
 And warms me so, it more and more revives me,
 120 My own affection is not so profound
 As to suffice in rendering grace for grace;
 Let Him, who sees and can, thereto respond.
 Well I perceive that never sated is
 Our intellect unless the Truth illumine it,
 125 Beyond which nothing true expands itself.
 It rests therein, as wild beast in his lair,
 When it attains it; and it can attain it;
 If not, then each desire would frustrate be.
 Therefore springs up, in fashion of a shoot,
 130 Doubt at the foot of truth; and this is nature,
 Which to the top from height to height impels us.
 This doth invite me, this assurance give me
 With reverence, Lady, to inquire of you
 Another true, which is obscure to me.
 135 I wish to know if man can satisfy you
 For broken vows with other good deeds, so
 L1[I] That in your balance they will not be light."
 A Beatrice gazed upon me with her eyes
 Full of the sparks of love, and so divine,
 140 That, overcome my power, I turned my back
 And almost lost myself with eyes downcast.
 4.142 66 AFTER that Constantine the eagle turned
 6 Against the course of heaven, which it had followed.
 Behind the ancient who Lavinia took,
 Two hundred years and more the bird of God
 5 In the extreme of Europe held itself,
 Near to the mountains whence it issued first;
 And under shadow of the sacred plumes
 It governed there the world from hand to hand,
 And, changing thus, upon mine own alighted.
 10 Caesar I was, and am Justinian,
 Who, by the will of primal Love I feel,
 Took from the laws the useless and redundant;
 And ere unto the work I was attent,
 One nature to exist in Christ, not more,
 Believed, and with such faith was I contented.
 15 But blessed Agapetus, he who was
 Divine The supreme pastor, to the faith sincere
 III Comedy Pointed me out the way by words of his.
 300 Him I believed, and what was his assertion
 6.19

4.62	The whole world nearly, till it went astray	16 (10C)	Might be commuted, as thou ought'st to know.	5.51
Divine III Comedy	Invoking Jove and Mercury and Mars.		The other, which is known to thee as matter,	Divine III Comedy
65	The other doubt which doth disquiet thee		May well indeed be such that one errs not	
	Less venom has, for its malevolence		If it for other matter be exchanged.	
	Could never lead thee elsewhere from me.		But let none shift the burden on his shoulder	55
	That as unjust our justice should appear		At his arbitrament, without the turning	
	In eyes of mortals, is an argument		Both of the white and of the yellow key;	
	Of faith, and not of sin heretical.		And every permutation deem as foolish,	
70	But still, that your perception may be able		If in the substitute the thing relinquished,	
♦	To thoroughly penetrate this verity,		As the four is in six, be not contained.	60
	As thou desirest, I will satisfy thee.		Therefore whatever thing has so great weight	
	If it be violence when he who suffers		In value that it drags down every balance,	
	Co-operates not with him who uses force,		Cannot be satisfied with other spending.	
75	These souls were not on that account excused;		Let mortals never take a vow in jest;	
	For will is never quenched unless it will,		Be faithful and not blind in doing that,	65
	But operates as nature doth in fire,		As Jephthah was in his first offering,	
	If violence a thousand times distort it.		Whom more beseemed to say, 'I have done wrong,	
	Hence, if it yieldeth more or less, it seconds		Than to do worse by keeping; and as foolish	
80	The force; and these have done so, having power		Thou the great leader of the Greeks wilt find,	
	Of turning back unto the holy place.		Whence wept Iphigenia her fair face,	70
	If their will had been perfect, like to that		And made for her both wise and simple weep,	
	Which Lawrence fast upon his gridiron held,		Who heard such kind of worship spoken of.	
	And Mutius made severe to his own hand,		Christians, be ye more serious in your movements;	
85	It would have urged them back along the road		Be ye not like a feather at each wind,	
	Whence they were dragged, as soon as they were free;		And think not every water washes you.	75
L2[O]	But such a solid will is all too rare.		Ye have the Old and the New Testament,	L2[O]
A	And by these words, if thou hast gathered them		And the Pastor of the Church who guideth you;	A
	As thou shouldst do, the argument is refuted		Let this suffice you unto your salvation.	
90	That would have still annoyed thee many times.		If evil appetite cry aught else to you,	
	But now another passage runs accross		Be ye as men, and not as silly sheep,	80
	Before thine eyes, and such that by thyself		So that the Jew among you may not mock you.	
	Thou couldst not thread it ere thou wouldst be weary.	3 (2C)	Be ye not as the lamb that doth abandon	
	I have for certain put into thy mind		Its mother's milk, and frolicsome and simple	
95	That soul beatified could never lie,		Combats at its own pleasure with itself."	
	For it is near the primal Truth,		Thus Beatrice to me even as I write it;	85
	And then thou from Piccarda might'st have heard		Then all desireful turned herself again	
	Costanza kept affection for the veil,		To that part where the world is most alive.	
	So that she seemeth here to contradict me.		Her silence and her change of countenance	
4.100	Many times, brother, has it come to pass,	3	Silence imposed upon my eager mind,	
	That, to escape from peril, with reluctance		That had already in advance new questions;	90
	That has been done it was not right to do,		And as an arrow that upon the mark	
	E'en as Alcaemon (who, being by his father		Strikes ere the bowstring quiet hath become,	
	Thereto entreated, his own mother slew)		So did we speed into the second realm.	
105	Not to lose pity pitiless became.		My Lady there so joyful I beheld,	
	At this point I desire thee to remember		As into the brightness of that heaven she entered,	95
	That force with will commingles, and they cause		More luminous thereat the planet grew;	
	That the offences cannot be excused.	⑦	And if the star itself was changed and smiled,	
	Will absolute consenteth not to evil;		What became I, who by my nature am	
110	But in so far consenteth as it fears,		Exceeding mutable in every guise!	
250 4.111	If it refrain, to fall into more harm.	18	As, in a fish-pond which is pure and tranquil,	5.100 100

5.101	The fishes draw to that which from without Comes in such fashion that their food they deem it; So I beheld more than a thousand splendors Drawing towards us, and in each was heard:	17 (IIC)	More fervent far than by articulate speech. Beatrice did as Daniel had done Relieving Nebuchadnezzar from the wrath Which rendered him unjustly merciless,	4.12 15
105	“Lo, this is she who shall increase our love.” And as each one was coming unto us, Full of beatitude the shade was seen, By the effulgence clear that issued from it. Think, Reader, if what here is just beginning		And said: “Well see I how attracteth thee One and the other wish, so that thy care Binds itself so that forth it does not breathe. Thou arguest, if good will be permanent, The violence of others, for what reason	20
110 ♦	No farther should proceed, how thou wouldst have An agonizing need of knowing more; And of thyself thou ’lt see how I from these Was in desire of hearing their conditions, As they unto mine eyes were manifest.		Doth it decrease the measure of my merit? Again for doubting furnish thee occasion Souls seeming to return unto the stars, According to the sentiment of Plato.	25
115	“O thou well-born, unto whom Grace concedes To see the thrones of the eternal triumph, Or ever yet the warfare be abandoned, With light that through the whole of heaven is spread Kindled are we, and hence if thou desirest		These are the questions which upon thy wish Are thrusting equally; and therefore first Will I treat that which hath the most of gall. He of the Seraphim most absorbed in God, Moses, and Samuel, and whichever John	30
120	To know of us, at thine own pleasure sate thee.” Thus by some one among those holy spirits Was spoken, and by Beatrice: “Speak, speak Securely, and believe them even as Gods.” “Well I perceive how thou dost nest thyself		Thou mayst select, I say, and even Mary, Have not in any other heaven their seats, Than have those spirits that just appeared to thee, Nor of existence more or fewer years; But all make beautiful the primal circle, And have sweet life in different degrees,	35
125	In thine own light, and drawest it from thine eyes, L2[I] Because they coruscate when thou dost smile, A But know not who thou art, nor why thou hast, Spirit august, thy station in the sphere That veils itself to men in alien rays.”		By feeling more or less the eternal breath. They showed themselves here, not because allotted This sphere has been to them, but to give sign Of the celestial which is least exalted.	L2[I] A
130	This said I in direction of the light Which first had spoken to me; whence it became By far more lucent than it was before. Even as the sun, that doth conceal himself By too much light, when heat has worn away	4 (3C)	To speak thus is adapted to your mind, Since only through the sense it apprehendeth What then it worthy makes of intellect. On this account the Scripture condescends Unto your faculties, and feet and hands To God attributes, and means something else;	40 45
135	The tempering influence of the vapors dense, By greater rapture thus concealed itself In its own radiance the figure saintly, And thus close, close enfolded answered me		And Holy Church under an aspect human Gabriel and Michael represent to you, And him who made Tobias whole again. That which Timaeus argues of the soul Doth not resemble that which here is seen,	4.50
5.139	B In fashion as the following Canto sings.	4	Because it seems that as he speaks he thinks. He says the soul unto its star returns, Believing it to have been severed thence Whenever nature gave it as a form.	
4	And tempting, a free man would die of hunger Ere either he could bring unto his teeth. So would a lamb between the ravengings Of two fierce wolves stand fearing both alike; And so would stand a dog between two does. Hence, if I held my peace, myself I blame not, Impelled in equal measure by my doubts, Since it must be so, nor do I commend.		Perhaps his doctrine is of other guise Than the words sound, and possibly may be With meaning that is not to be derided. If he doth mean that to these wheels return The honor of their influence and the blame, Perhaps his bow doth hit upon some truth.	55
5	I held my peace; but my desire was painted Upon my face, and questioning with that	⑦	This principle ill understood once warped	200
Divine III Comedy				Divine III Comedy
10				60
051	4.11	19		4.61

5.78 By love which leadeth them, and they will come.”
 Divine III Comedy 80 Soon as the wind in our direction sways them,
 My voice uplift I: “O ye weary souls!
 Come speak to us, if no one interdicts it.”
 As turtle-doves, called onward by desire,
 With open and steady wings to the sweet nest
 Fly through the air by their volition borne,
 85 So came they from the band where Dido is,
 Approaching us athwart the air malign,
 ♦ So strong was the affectionate appeal.
 “O living creature gracious and benignant,
 Who visiting goest through the purple air
 90 Us, who have stained the world incarnadine,
 If were the King of the Universe our friend,
 We would pray unto him to give thee peace,
 Since thou hast pity on our woe perverse.
 Of what it pleases thee to hear and speak,
 95 That will we hear, and we will speak to you,
 While silent is the wind, as it is now.
 Sitteth the city, wherein I was born,
 Upon the sea-shore where the Po descends
 To rest in peace with all his retinue.
 5.100 Love, that on gentle heart doth swiftly seize,
 Seized this man for the person beautiful
 That was ta'en from me, and still the mode offends me.
 L1[O] Love, that exempts no one beloved from loving,
 B Seized me with pleasure of this man so strongly,
 That, as thou seest, it doth not yet desert me;
 Love has conducted us unto one death;
 Caïna waiteth him who quenched our life!”
 These words were borne along from them to us.
 As soon as I had heard those souls tormented,
 110 I bowed my face, and so long held it down
 Until the Poet said to me: “What thinkest?”
 When I made answer, I began: “Alas!
 How many pleasant thoughts, how much desire,
 Conducted these unto the dolorous pass!”
 115 Then unto them I turned me, and I spake,
 And I began: “Thine agonies, Francesca,
 Sad and compassionate to weeping make me.
 But tell me, at the time of those sweet sighs,
 By what and in what manner Love conceded,
 120 That you should know your dubious desires?”
 And she to me: “There is no greater sorrow
 Than to be mindful of the happy time
 In misery, and that thy Teacher knows.
 But, if to recognise the earliest root
 125 Of love in us thou hast so great desire,
 I will do even as he who weeps and speaks.
 055 5.127 One day we reading were for our delight

18 (12C)

5 (4C)

5

⑦

20

From thence it came like lightning upon Juba;
 Then wheeled itself again into your West,
 Where the Pompeian clarion it heard.
 From what it wrought with the next standard-bearer
 Brutus and Cassius howl in Hell together,
 And Modena and Perugia dolent were;
 75 Still doth the mournful Cleopatra weep
 Because thereof, who, fleeing from before it,
 Took from the adder sudden and black death.
 With him it ran even to the Red Sea shore;
 With him it placed the world in so great peace,
 80 That unto Janus was his temple closed.
 But what the standard that has made me speak
 Achieved before, and after should achieve
 Throughout the mortal realm that lies beneath it,
 Becometh in appearance mean and dim,
 85 If in the hand of the third Caesar seen
 With eye unclouded and affection pure,
 Because the living Justice that inspires me
 Granted it, in the hand of him I speak of,
 The glory of doing vengeance for its wrath.
 90 Now here attend to what I answer thee;
 Later it ran with Titus to do vengeance
 Upon the vengeance of the ancient sin.
 And when the tooth of Lombardy had bitten
 The Holy Church, then underneath its wings
 L1[O] Did Charlemagne victorious succor her.
 B Now hast thou power to judge of such as those
 Whom I accused above, and of their crimes,
 Which are the cause of all your miseries.
 6.100 To the public standard one the yellow lilies
 Opposes, the other claims it for a party,
 So that 't is hard to see which sins the most.
 Let, let the Ghibellines ply their handicraft
 Beneath some other standard; for this ever
 Ill follows he who it and justice parts.
 105 And let not this new Charles e'er strike it down,
 He and his Guelfs, but let him fear the talons
 That from a nobler lion stripped the fell.
 Already oftentimes the sons have wept
 The father's crime; and let him not believe
 110 That God will change His scutcheon for the lilies.
 This little planet doth adorn itself
 With the good spirits that have active been,
 That fame and honor might come after them;
 And whensoever the desires mount thither,
 115 Thus deviating, must perforce the rays
 Of the true love less vividly mount upward.
 But in commensuration of our wages
 With our desert is portion of our joy,

6.70

Divine
III
Comedy

75

80

85

90

L1[O]
B

6.100

105

110

115

6.119 400

6.120 We see them neither less nor greater.
Herein doth living Justice sweeten so
Affection in us, that forevermore
It cannot warp to any iniquity.
Voices **diverse** make up sweet melodies;
So in this life of ours the seats **diverse**
Render sweet harmony among these spheres;
And in the compass of this present pearl
Shineth the sheen of Romeo, of whom
♦ The grand and beauteous work was ill rewarded.
130 But the Provençals who against him wrought,
They have not laughed, and therefore ill goes he
Who makes his hurt of the good deeds of others.
Four daughters, and each one of them a queen,
Had Raymond Berenger, and this for him
135 Did Romeo, a poor man and a pilgrim;
And then malicious words incited him
To summon to a reckoning this just man,
Who rendered to him seven and five for ten.
Then he departed poor and stricken in years,
140 And if the world could know the heart he had,
In begging bit by bit his livelihood,

6.142 **Though** much it laud him, it would laud him more.”

5 THUS I descended out of the first circle
 Down to the second, that less space begirds,
 And so much greater dole, that goads to wailing.
L1[II] There standeth Minos horribly, and snarls;
B Examines the transgressions at the entrance;
 Judges, and sends according as he girds him.
 I say, that when the spirit evil-born
 Cometh before him, wholly it confesses;
 And this discriminator of transgressions
10 Seeth what place in Hell is meet for it;
 Girds himself with his tail as many times
 As grades he wishes it should be thrust down.
 Always before him many of them stand;
 They go by turns each one unto the judgment;
15 They speak, and hear, and then are downward hurled.
 “O thou, that to this dolorous hostelry
 Comest,” said Minos to me, when he saw me,
 Leaving the practice of so great an office,
 “Look how thou enterest, and in whom thou trustest;
20 Let not the portal’s amplitude deceive thee.”
v P-O-1,000 And unto him my Guide: “Why criest thou too?
 Do not impede his journey fate-ordained;
 It is so willed there where is power to go
 That which is willed; and ask no further question.”
Divine And now begin the dolesome notes to grow
III Audible unto me; now am I come
Comedy There where much lamentation strikes upon me.
450 **5.27**

19 (13c)	I came into a place mute of all light,	5.28
	Which bellows as the sea does in a tempest, ‡	
	If by opposing winds 't is combated.	30
	The infernal hurricane that never rests	
	Hurtles the spirits onward in its rapine;	
	Whirling them round, and smiting, it molests them.	
	When they arrive before the precipice,	
	There are the shrieks, the complaints, and the laments,	35
	There they blaspheme the puissance divine.	
	I understood that unto such a torment	
	The carnal malefactors were condemned,	
	Who reason subjugate to appetite.	
	And as the wings of starlings bear them on	40
	In the cold season in large band and full,	
	So doth that blast the spirits maledict;	
	It hither, thither, downward, upward, drives them;	
	No hope doth comfort them forevermore,	
	Not of repose, but even of lesser pain.	45
	And as the cranes go chanting forth their lays,	
	Making in air a long line of themselves,	
	So saw I coming, uttering lamentations,	
	Shadows borne onward by the aforesaid stress.	
	Whereupon said I: "Master, who are those	5.50

6 (5C)

6

⑦

10

21

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Which bellows as the sea does in a tempest, ‡	
If by opposing winds ’t is combated.	30
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Making in air a long line of themselves,	
So saw I coming, uttering lamentations,	
Shadows borne onward by the aforesaid stress.	
Whereupon said I: “Master, who are those	5.50
People, whom the black air so castigates?”	
“The first of those, of whom intelligence	
Thou fain wouldst have,” then said he unto me,	L1[I]
“The empress was of many languages.	B
To sensual vices she was so abandoned,	
That lustful she made licit in her law,	
To remove the blame to which she had been led.	
She is Semiramis, of whom we read	
That she succeeded Ninus, and was his spouse;	
She held the land which now the Sultan rules.	60
The next is she who killed herself for love,	
And broke faith with the ashes of Sichaeus;	
Then Cleopatra the voluptuous.”	
Helen I saw, for whom so many ruthless	
Seasons revolved; and saw the great Achilles,	65
Who at the last hour combated with Love.	
Paris I saw, Tristan; and more than a thousand	
Shades did he name and point out with his finger,	
Whom Love had separated from our life.	
After that I had listened to my Teacher,	70
Naming the dames of eld and cavaliers,	^ P 8,000
Pity prevailed, and I was nigh bewildered.	
And I began: “O Poet, willingly	
Speak would I to those two, who go together,	Divine
And seem upon the wind to be so light.”	III
And, he to me: “Thou ’lt mark, when they shall be	Comedy
Nearer to us; and then do thou implore them	5.77
	500

Divine II Comedy	Doth it decrease the measure of my merit?	20	Of Launcelot, how Love did him enthrall.	5.128	Divine III Comedy
	Again for doubting furnish thee occasion		Alone we were and without any fear.		
25	Souls seeming to return unto the stars,		Full many a time our eyes together drew	130	
	According to the sentiment of Plato.		That reading, and drove the color from our faces;		
30	These are the questions which upon thy wish		But one point only was it that o'ercame us.		
	Are thrusting equally; and therefore first		When as we read of the much-longed-for smile		
35	Will I treat that which hath the most of gall.		Being by such a noble lover kissed,		135
	He of the Seraphim most absorbed in God,		This one, who ne'er from me shall be divided,		
40	Moses, and Samuel, and whichever John		Kissed me upon the mouth all palpitating.		
	Thou mayst select, I say, and even Mary,		Galeotto was the book and he who wrote it.		
45	Have not in any other heaven their seats,		That day no farther did we read therein."		140
	Than have those spirits that just appeared to thee,		And all the while one spirit uttered this,		
50	Nor of existence more or fewer years;		The other one did weep so, that, for pity,		140
	But all make beautiful the primal circle ,		I swooned away as if I had been dying,		
55	And have sweet life in different degrees,		And fell, even as a dead body falls.	5.142	7
	By feeling more or less the eternal breath.		66 P APÈ Satàn, Papè Satàn, Aleppè!"		
60	They showed themselves here, not because allotted		Thus Plutus with his clucking voice began;		5
	This sphere has been to them, but to give sign		And that benignant Sage, who all things knew,		
65	Of the celestial which is least exalted.		Said, to encourage me: "Let not thy fear		10
	To speak thus is adapted to your mind,		Harm thee; for any power that he may have		
70	Since only through the sense it apprehendeth		Shall not prevent thy going down this crag."		10
	What then it worthy makes of intellect.		Then he turned round unto that bloated lip,		
75	On this account the Scripture condescends		And said: "Be silent, thou accursed wolf;		15
	Unto your faculties, and feet and hands		Consume within thyself with thine own rage.		
80	To God attributes, and means something else;		Not causeless is this journey to the abyss;		20
	And Holy Church under an aspect human		Thus is it willed on high, where Michael wrought		
85	Gabriel and Michael represent to you,		Vengeance upon the proud adultery."		25
	And him who made Tobias whole again.		Even as the sails inflated by the wind		
90	That which Timaeus argues of the soul		Together fall involved when snaps the mast,		30
	Doth not resemble that which here is seen,		So fell the cruel monster to the earth.		
95	Because it seems that as he speaks he thinks.		Thus we descended into the fourth chasm,		35
	He says the soul unto its star returns,	7	Gaining still farther on the dolesome shore		
100	Believing it to have been severed thence		Which all the woe of the universe insacks.		40
	Whenever nature gave it as a form.		Justice of God, ah! who heaps up so many		
105	Perhaps his doctrine is of other guise		New toils and sufferings as I beheld?		45
	Than the words sound, and possibly may be		And why doth our transgression waste us so?		
110	With meaning that is not to be derided.		As doth the billow there upon Charybdis,		50
	If he doth mean that to these wheels return		That breaks itself on that which it encounters,		
115	The honor of their influence and the blame,	7	So here the folk must dance their roundelay.		55
	Perhaps his bow doth hit upon some truth.		Here saw I people, more than elsewhere, many,		
120	This principle ill understood once warped		On one side and the other, with great howls,		60
	The whole world nearly, till it went astray		Rolling weights forward by main-force of chest.		
125	Invoking Jove and Mercury and Mars.		They clashed together, and then at that point		65
	The other doubt which doth disquiet thee		Each one turned backward, rolling retrograde,		
130	Less venom has, for its malevolence		Crying, "Why keepest?" and, "Why squanderest thou?"		70
	Could never lead thee elsewhere from me.		Thus they returned along the lurid circle		
135	That as unjust our justice should appear		On either hand unto the opposite point,		75
	In eyes of mortals, is an argument		Shouting their shameful metre evermore.		
140	Of faith, and not of sin heretical.		Then each, when he arrived there, wheeled about		80
	But still, that your perception may be able		Through his half-circle to another joust;		

7.36 And I, who had my heart pierced as it were,
Exclaimed: "My Master, now declare to me
What people these are, and if all were clerks,
These shaven crowns upon the left of us."

40 And he to me: "All of them were asquint
In intellect in the first life, so much
That there with measure they no spending made.
Clearly enough their voices bark it forth,
Whene'er they reach the two points of the circle,

45 ♦ Where sunders them the opposite defect.
Clerks those were who no hairy covering
Have on the head, and Popes and Cardinals,
In whom doth Avarice practise its excess."
And I: "My Master, among such as these

7.50 I ought forsooth to recognise some few,
Who were infected with these maladies."
And he to me: "Vain thought thou entertainest;
The undiscerning life which made them sordid
Now makes them unto all discernment dim.

55 Forever shall they come to these two buttings;
These from the sepulchre shall rise again
With the fist closed, and these with tresses shorn.
Ill giving and ill keeping the fair world
Have ta'en from them, and placed them in this scuffle;

60 Whate'er it be, no words adorn I for it.
L1[I] Now canst thou, Son, behold the transient farce
C Of goods that are committed unto Fortune,
For which the human race each other buffet;
For all the gold that is beneath the moon,

65 Or ever has been, of these weary souls
Could never make a single one repose."
"Master," I said to him, "now tell me also
What is this Fortune which thou speakest of,
That has the world's goods so within its clutches?"

70 And he to me: "O creatures imbecile,
What ignorance is this which doth beset you?
Now will I have thee learn my judgment of her.
He whose omniscience everything transcends
The heavens created, and gave who should guide them,

75 That every part to every part may shine,
Distributing the light in equal measure;
He in like manner to the mundane splendors
Ordained a general mistress and guide,
That she might change at times the empty treasures

80 From race to race, from one blood to another,
Beyond resistance of all human wisdom.
Therefore one people triumphs, and another
Languishes, in pursuance of her judgment,
Which hidden is, as in the grass a serpent.

Divine
III
Comedy
6.50 7.85 Your knowledge has no counterstand against her;

21 In intellect in **the first** life, so much
That there with measure they no spending made.
Clearly enough their voices bark it forth,
Whene'er they reach the two points of the circle,
Where sunders them the opposite defect. ♦ 45
Clerks those were who no hairy covering
Have on the head, and Popes and Cardinals,
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I ought forsooth to recognise some few, 7.50
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Now canst thou, Son, behold the transient farce
Of goods that are committed unto Fortune,
For which the human race each other buffet;
For all the gold that is beneath the moon,
Or ever has been, of these weary souls
Could never make a single one repose." L1[I]
"Master," I said to him, "now tell me also C
What is this Fortune which thou speakest of,
That has the world's goods so within its clutches?"
And he to me: "O creatures imbecile, 7.70
BETWEEN two viands, equally removed 4
And tempting, a free man would die of hunger
Ere either he could bring unto his teeth.
So would a lamb between the ravensings
Of two fierce wolves stand **fearing both alike**; 5
And so would stand a dog between two does.
Hence, if I held my peace, myself I blame not,
Impelled in **equal measure** by my doubts,
Since it must be so, nor do I commend.
I held my peace; but my desire was painted 10
Upon my face, and questioning with that
More fervent far than by articulate speech.
Beatrice did as Daniel had done
Relieving Nebuchadnezzar from the **wrath**
Which rendered him unjustly merciless, 15
And said: "Well see I how attracteth thee
One and the other wish, so that thy **care**
Binds itself so that forth it does not **breathe**.
Thou arguest, if good will be permanent,
The violence of others, for what reason 4.20

8

8

7

23

Divine
III
Comedy

6.106	And he to me: “ Return unto thy science,	22	She makes provision, judges, and pursues	7.86
Divine III Comedy	Which wills, that as the thing more perfect is,		Her governance, as theirs the other gods.	Divine III Comedy
	The more it feels of pleasure and of pain.		Her permutations have not any truce;	
110	Albeit that this people maledict		Necessity makes her precipitate,	90
	To true perfection never can attain,		So often cometh who his turn obtains.	
	Hereafter more than now they look to be.”		And this is she who is so crucified	
	Round in a circle by that road we went,		Even by those who ought to give her praise,	
	Speaking much more, which I do not repeat;		Giving her blame amiss, and bad repute.	
	We came unto the point where the descent is;		But she is blissful, and she hears it not;	
6.115 ♦	There we found Plutus the great enemy.		Among the other primal creatures gladsome	95
7	66 P APĒ Satàn, Papĕ Satàn, Aleppĕ!”		She turns her sphere, and blissful she rejoices.	
	Thus Plutus with his clucking voice began;		Let us descend now unto greater woe;	
	And that benignant Sage, who all things knew,		Already sinks each star that was ascending	
	Said, to encourage me: “Let not thy fear		When I set out, and loitering is forbidden.”	
5	Harm thee; for any power that he may have		We crossed the circle to the other bank,	7.100
	Shall not prevent thy going down this crag.”		Near to a fount that boils, and pours itself	
	Then he turned round unto that bloated lip,		Along a gully that runs out of it.	
	And said: “Be silent, thou accursed wolf;		The water was more sombre far than perse;	
	Consume within thyself with thine own rage .		And we, in company with the dusky waves,	
10	Not causeless is this journey to the abyss;		Made entrance downward by a path uncouth.	105
	Thus is it willed on high, where Michael wrought		A marsh it makes, which has the name of Styx,	
	Vengeance upon the proud adultery.”		This tristful brooklet, when it has descended	
	Even as the sails inflated by the wind		Down to the foot of the malign gray shores.	
	Together fall involved when snaps the mast,		And I, who stood intent upon beholding,	110
15	So fell the cruel monster to the earth.		Saw people mud-besprent in that lagoon,	L2[O]
L2[O]	Thus we descended into the fourth chasm,		All of them naked and with angry look.	C
C	Gaining still farther on the dolesome shore		They smote each other not alone with hands,	
	Which all the woe of the universe insacks.		But with the head and with the breast and feet,	
	Justice of God, ah! who heaps up so many		Tearing each other piecemeal with their teeth.	
20	New toils and sufferings as I beheld?		Said the good Master: “Son, thou now beholdest	115
	And why doth our transgression waste us so?	9	The souls of those whom anger overcame;	
	As doth the billow there upon Charybdis ,		And likewise I would have thee know for certain	
	That breaks itself on that which it encounters,		Beneath the water people are who sigh	
	So here the folk must dance their roundelay.		And make this water bubble at the surface,	120
25	Here saw I people, more than elsewhere, many,		As the eye tells thee wheresoe’er it turns.	
	On one side and the other, with great howls,		Fixed in the mire they say, ‘We sullen were	
	Rolling weights forward by main-force of chest.		In the sweet air, which by the sun is gladdened,	
	They clashed together, and then at that point		Bearing within ourselves the sluggish reek;	
	Each one turned backward, rolling retrograde ,	9	Now we are sullen in this sable mire.’	
30	Crying, “Why keepest?” and, “Why squanderest thou?”		This hymn do they keep gurgling in their throats,	125
	Thus they returned along the lurid circle		For with unbroken words they cannot say it.”	
	On either hand unto the opposite point,		Thus we went circling round the filthy fen	
	Shouting their shameful metre evermore.		A great arc ’twixt the dry bank and the swamp,	
	Then each, when he arrived there, wheeled about		With eyes turned unto those who gorge the mire;	
35	Through his half-circle to another joust;		Unto the foot of a tower we came at last.	7.130
	And I, who had my heart pierced as it were,		A T the return of consciousness, that closed	6
	Exclaimed: “My Master, now declare to me	7	Before the pity of those two relations,	
	What people these are, and if all were clerks ,		Which utterly with sadness had confused me,	
	These shaven crowns upon the left of us.”		New torments I behold, and new tormented	
018	7.40 And he to me: “All of them were asquint		Around me, whichsoever way I move,	6.5 700

6.6	And whichsoever way I turn, and gaze. In the third circle am I of the rain Eternal, maledict, and cold, and heavy; Its law and quality are never new.	23 (14C)	For all these suffer the like penalty For the like sin"; and word no more spake he. I answered him: "Ciaccio, thy wretchedness Weighs on me so that it to weep invites me; But tell me, if thou knowest, to what shall come The citizens of the divided city; If any there be just; and the occasion Tell me why so much discord has assailed it." And he to me: "They, after long contention, Will come to bloodshed; and the rustic party Will drive the other out with much offence. Then afterwards behoves it this one fall Within three suns, and rise again the other By force of him who now is on the coast. High will it hold its forehead a long while, Keeping the other under heavy burdens, Howe'er it weeps thereat and is indignant. The just are two, and are not understood there; Envy and Arrogance and Avarice Are the three sparks that have all hearts enkindled." Here ended he his tearful utterance; And I to him: "I wish thee still to teach me, And make a gift to me of further speech. Farinata and Tegghiaio, once so worthy, Jacopo Rusticucci, Arrigo, and Mosca, And others who on good deeds set their thoughts, Say where they are, and cause that I may know them; For great desire constraineth me to learn If Heaven doth sweeten them, or Hell envenom." And he: "They are among the blacker souls; A different sin downweighs them to the bottom; If thou so far descendest, thou canst see them. But when thou art again in the sweet world, I pray thee to the mind of others bring me; No more I tell thee and no more I answer." Then his straightforward eyes he turned askance, Eyed me a little, and then bowed his head; He fell therewith prone like the other blind. And the Guide said to me: "He wakes no more This side the sound of the angelic trumpet; When shall approach the hostile Potentate, Each one shall find again his dismal tomb, Shall reassume his flesh and his own figure, Shall hear what through eternity re-echoes." So we passed onward o'er the filthy mixture Of shadows and of rain with footsteps slow, Touching a little on the future life. Wherefore I said: "Master, these torments here, Will they increase after the mighty sentence, Or lesser be, or will they be as burning?"	6.56
10	Huge hail, and water sombre-hued, and snow, Athwart the tenebrous air pour down amain; Noisome the earth is, that receiveth this. Cerberus, monster cruel and uncouth, With his three gullets like a dog is barking Over the people that are there submerged. Red eyes he has, and unctuous beard and black, And belly large, and armed with claws his hands; He rends the spirits, flays, and quarters them. Howl the rain maketh them like unto dogs; One side they make a shelter for the other; Oft turn themselves the wretched reprobates. When Cerberus perceived us, the great worm! His mouths he opened, and displayed his tusks; Not a limb had he that was motionless.		60	
15 ♦	And my Conductor, with his spans extended, Took of the earth, and with his fists well filled, He threw it into those rapacious gullets. Such as that dog is, who by barking craves, And quiet grows soon as his food he gnaws, For to devour it he but thinks and struggles, The like became those muzzles filth-begrimed Of Cerberus the demon, who so thunders Over the souls that they would fain be deaf. We passed across the shadows, which subdues The heavy rain-storm, and we placed our feet Upon their vanity that person seems. They all were lying prone upon the earth, Excepting one, who sat upright as soon As he beheld us passing on before him. "O thou that art conducted through this Hell," He said to me, "recall me, if thou canst; Thyself wast made before I was unmade." And I to him: "The anguish which thou hast Perhaps doth draw thee out of my remembrance, So that it seems not I have ever seen thee. But tell me who thou art, that in so doleful A place art put, and in such punishment, If some are greater, none is so displeasing." And he to me: "Thy city, which is full Of envy so that now the sack runs over, Held me within it in the life serene. You citizens were wont to call me Ciaccio; For the pernicious sin of gluttony I, as thou seest, am battered by this rain. And I, sad soul, am not the only one,		65	
20			70	
25			75	
30			80	
L2[I] C			L2[I] C	
35			85	
40		10 (6C)	90	
45		10	95	
6.50			6.100	
Divine III Comedy		7	Divine III Comedy	
750			800	
6.55		25	6.105	

8.11 Took the denomination of the star
Divine IV Comedy That woos the sun, now following, now in front.
I was not ware of our ascending to it;
But of our being in it gave full faith
15 My Lady whom I saw more beauteous grow.
And as within a flame a spark is seen,
And as within a voice a voice discerned,
When one is steadfast, and one comes and goes,
Within that light beheld I other lamps
20 Move in a circle, speeding more and less,
Methinks in measure of their inward vision.
From a cold cloud descended never winds,
Or visible or not, so rapidly
They would not laggard and impeded seem
25 To any one who had those lights divine
Seen come towards us, leaving the gyration
Begun at first in the high Seraphim.
And behind those that most in front appeared
Sounded "Osanna!" so that never since
30 To hear again was I without desire.
Then unto us more nearly one approached,
And it alone began: "We all are ready
Unto thy pleasure, that thou joy in us.
We turn around with the celestial Princes,
35 One gyre and one gyration and one thirst,
L1[O] To whom thou in the world of old didst say,
A 'Ye who, intelligent, the third heaven are moving';
And are so full of love, to pleasure thee
A little quiet will not be less sweet."
40 After these eyes of mine themselves had offered
Unto my Lady reverently, and she
Content and certain of herself had made them,
Back to the light they turned, which so great promise
Made of itself, and "Say, who art thou?" was
45 My voice, imprinted with a great affection.
O how and how much I beheld it grow
With the new joy that superadded was
Unto its joys, as soon as I had spoken!
Thus changed, it said to me: "The world possessed me
1
8.50 Short time below; and, if it had been more,
Much evil will be which would not have been.
My gladness keepeth me concealed from thee,
Which rayeth round about me, and doth hide me
Like as a creature swathed in its own silk.
55 Much didst thou love me, and thou hadst good reason;
For had I been below, I should have shown thee
Somewhat beyond the foliage of my love.
That left-hand margin, which doth bathe itself
In Rhone, when it is mingled with the Sorgue,
350 8.60 Me for its lord awaited in due time,

LONGFELLOW
DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY



EPIC POEM

. O R G
DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

2L A 9, 7, 8.60
3L B 8.61, 10.92
2L C 10.93, 9, 8

QUICK START			
9	[1]	10	[439]
7	[143]	9	[575]
8	[291]	8	[708]

TOTAL LINE COUNT			
Paradiso	9: 142	7: 148	8: 148 = 438
Inferno	10: 136	9: 133	8: 130 = 399

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti descend I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.
Inferno tri-Canti descend;
Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;
Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

IV

INTERLEAVABLE

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EPICPOEM.ORG 837 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;
PRINT
2-SIDED:
26 to 35

9	BEAUTIFUL Clemence, after that thy Charles Had me enlightened, he narrated to me The treacheries his seed should undergo; But said: "Be still and let the years roll round"; 5 So I can only say, that lamentation Legitimate shall follow on your wrongs. And of that holy light the life already Had to the Sun which fills it turned again, As to that good which for each thing sufficeth. 10 Ah, souls deceived, and creatures impious, Who from such good do turn away your hearts, Directing upon vanity your foreheads! And now, behold, another of those splendors Approached me, and its will to pleasure me 15 It signified by brightening outwardly. The eyes of Beatrice, that fastened were Upon me, as before, of dear assent To my desire assurance gave to me. "Ah, bring swift compensation to my wish, 20 Thou blessed spirit," I said, "and give me proof That what I think in thee I can reflect!" Whereat the light, that still was new to me, Out of its depths, whence it before was singing, As one delighted to do good, continued: 25 "Within that region of the land depraved Of Italy, that lies between Rialto L1[I] A And fountain-heads of Brenta and of Piava, Rises a hill, and mounts not very high, Wherefrom descended formerly a torch 30 That made upon that region great assault. Out of one root were born both I and it; Cunizza was I called, and here I shine Because the splendor of this star o'ercame me. But gladly to myself the cause I pardon 35 Of my allotment, and it does not grieve me; Which would perhaps seem strong unto your vulgar. ♦ Of this so luculent and precious jewel, Which of our heaven is nearest unto me, Great fame remained; and ere it die away 40 This hundredth year shall yet quintupled be. See if man ought to make him excellent, So that another life the first may leave! And thus thinks not the present multitude Shut in by Adige and Tagliamento, 45 Nor yet for being scourged is penitent. But soon 't will be that Padua in the marsh Will change the water that Vicenza bathes, Because the folk are stubborn against duty; And where the Sile and Cagnano join Divine IV Comedy 50 9.50 One lordeth it, and goes with lofty head,	25 (15C)	Goodness Divine, that doth imprint the world, Has been contented to proceed by each And all its ways to lift you up again; Nor 'twixt the first day and the final night Such high and such magnificent proceeding By one or by the other was or shall be; For God more bounteous was himself to give 115 To make man able to uplift himself, Than if he only of himself had pardoned; And all the other modes were insufficient For justice, were it not the Son of God Himself had humbled to become incarnate. 120 Now, to fill fully each desire of thine, Return I to elucidate one place, In order that thou there mayst see as I do. Thou sayst: 'I see the air, I see the fire, The water, and the earth, and all their mixtures 125 Come to corruption, and short while endure; And these things notwithstanding were created'; Therefore if that which I have said were true, They should have been secure against corruption. The Angels, brother, and the land sincere 130 In which thou art, created may be called Just as they are in their entire existence; But all the elements which thou hast named, And all those things which out of them are made, L1[I] A By a created virtue are informed. Created was the matter which they have; Created was the informing influence Within these stars that round about them go. The soul of every brute and of the plants 140 By its potential temperament attracts The ray and motion of the holy lights; But your own life immediately inspires Supreme Beneficence, and enamors it So with herself, it evermore desires her. And thou from this mayst argue furthermore 145 Your resurrection, if thou think again How human flesh was fashioned at that time When the first parents both of them were made." 7.148 8 THE world used in its peril to believe That the fair Cypria delirious love Rayed out, in the third epicycle turning; Wherefore not only unto her paid honor Of sacrifices and of votive cry 5 The ancient nations in the ancient error, But both Dione honored they and Cupid, That as her mother, this one as her son, And said that he had sat in Dido's lap; And they from her, whence I beginning take,	7.109 115 120 125 130 140 145 7.148 8 5 Divine IV Comedy 300 8.10
	2 (1C)			
	2			
	27			

7.59	Unto the eyes of every one whose nature	26 (16C)	For catching whom e'en now the net is making.	9.51
Divine	Is in the flame of love not yet adult.		Feltro moreover of her impious pastor	Divine
IV	Verily, inasmuch as at this mark		Shall weep the crime, which shall so monstrous be	IV
Comedy	One gazes long and little is discerned,		That for the like none ever entered Malta.	Comedy
	Wherefore this mode was worthiest will I say.		Ample exceedingly would be the vat	55
	Goodness Divine, which from itself doth spurn		That of the Ferrarese could hold the blood,	
65	All envy, burning in itself so sparkles		And weary who should weigh it ounce by ounce,	
	That the eternal beauties it unfolds.		Of which this courteous priest shall make a gift	
	Whate'er from this immediately distils		To show himself a partisan; and such gifts	
	Has afterwards no end, for ne'er removed		Will to the living of the land conform.	60
	Is its impression when it sets its seal.		Above us there are mirrors, Thrones you call them,	
70	Whate'er from this immediately rains down		From which shines out on us God Judicant,	
	Is wholly free, because it is not subject		So that this utterance seems good to us."	
	Unto the influences of novel things.		Here it was silent, and it had the semblance	
	The more conformed thereto, the more it pleases;		Of being turned elsewhither, by the wheel	65
	For the blest ardor that irradiates all things		On which it entered as it was before.	
75	In that most like itself is most vivacious.		The other joy, already known to me,	
	With all of these things has advantaged been		Became a thing transplendent in my sight,	
	The human creature; and if one be wanting,		As a fine ruby smitten by the sun.	vP 2,000
	From his nobility he needs must fall.		Through joy effulgence is acquired above,	70
	'T is sin alone which doth disfranchise him,		As here a smile; but down below, the shade	
80	And render him unlike the Good Supreme,		Outwardly darkens, as the mind is sad.	
	So that he little with its light is blanched,		God seeth all things, and in Him, blest spirit,	
	And to his dignity no more returns,		Thy sight is," said I, "so that never will	
	Unless he fill up where transgression empties		Of his can possibly from thee be hidden;	75
L2[O]	With righteous pains for criminal delights.		Thy voice, then, that for ever makes the heavens	L2[O]
A	Your nature when it sinned so utterly		Glad, with the singing of those holy fires	A
	In its own seed, out of these dignities		Which of their six wings make themselves a cowl,	
	Even as out of Paradise was driven,		Wherefore does it not satisfy my longings?	
	Nor could itself recover, if thou notest		Indeed, I would not wait thy questioning	80
	With nicest subtilty, by any way,		If I in thee were as thou art in me."	
90	Except by passing one of these two fords:	3 (2C)	"The greatest of the valleys where the water	
	Either that God through clemency alone		Expands itself," forthwith its words began,	
	Had pardon granted, or that man himself		"That sea excepted which the earth engarlands,	
	Had satisfaction for his folly made.		Between discordant shores against the sun	85
	Fix now thine eye deep into the abyss		Extends so far, that it meridian makes	
95 ♦	Of the eternal counsel, to my speech		Where it was wont before to make the horizon.	
	As far as may be fastened steadfastly!		I was a dweller on that valley's shore	
	Man in his limitations had not power	3	'Twixt Ebro and Magra that with journey short	
	To satisfy, not having power to sink		Doth from the Tuscan part the Genoese.	90
	In his humility obeying then,		With the same sunset and same sunrise nearly	
7.100	Far as he disobeying thought to rise;		Sit Buggia and the city whence I was,	
	And for this reason man has been from power		That with its blood once made the harbor hot.	
	Of satisfying by himself excluded.		Folco that people called me unto whom	
	Therefore it God behoved in his own ways		My name was known; and now with me this heaven	95
	Man to restore unto his perfect life,		Imprints itself, as I did once with it;	
105	I say in one, or else in both of them.	⑦	For more the daughter of Belus never burned,	
	But since the action of the doer is		Offending both Sichaeus and Creusa,	
	So much more grateful, as it more presents		Than I, so long as it became my locks,	
250	7.108 The goodness of the heart from which it issues,	28	Nor yet that Rodophean, who deluded	9.100 100

9.101	was by Demophoön, nor yet Alcides, When Iole he in his heart had locked. Yet here is no repenting, but we smile, Not at the fault, which comes not back to mind,	27 (17C)	Veiled themselves from me with a sudden distance. Doubting was I, and saying, "Tell her, tell her," Within me, "tell her," saying, "tell my Lady," Who slakes my thirst with her sweet effluences; And yet that reverence which doth lord it over The whole of me only by B and ICE,	7.9
105	But at the power which ordered and foresaw. Here we behold the art that doth adorn With such affection, and the good discover Whereby the world above turns that below. But that thou wholly satisfied mayst bear		Bowed me again like unto one who drowzes. Short while did Beatrice endure me thus; And she began, lighting me with a smile Such as would make one happy in the fire: "According to infallible advisement,	15
110	Thy wishes hence which in this sphere are born, Still farther to proceed behoveth me. Thou fain wouldst know who is within this light That here beside me thus is scintillating, Even as a sunbeam in the limpid water.		After what manner a just vengeance justly Could be avenged has put thee upon thinking, But I will speedily thy mind unloose; And do thou listen, for these words of mine Of a great doctrine will a present make thee.	20
115	Then know thou, that within there is at rest Rahab, and being to our order joined, With her in its supremest grade 't is sealed. Into this heaven, where ends the shadowy cone Cast by your world, before all other souls		By not enduring on the power that wills Curb for his good, that man who ne'er was born, Damning himself damned all his progeny; Whereby the human species down below Lay sick for many centuries in great error,	25
120	First of Christ's triumph was she taken up. Full meet it was to leave her in some heaven, Even as a palm of the high victory Which he acquired with one palm and the other, Because she favored the first glorious deed		Till to descend it pleased the Word of God To where the nature, which from its own Maker Estranged itself, he joined to him in person By the sole act of his eternal love. Now unto what is said direct thy sight;	30
125	Of Joshua upon the Holy Land, L2[I] That little stirs the memory of the Pope. A Thy city, which an offshoot is of him Who first upon his Maker turned his back, And whose ambition is so sorely wept,		This nature when united to its Maker, Such as created, was sincere and good; But by itself alone was banished forth From Paradise, because it turned aside Out of the way of truth and of its life.	L2[I] A
130	Brings forth and scatters the accursed flower Which both the sheep and lambs hath led astray, Since it has turned the shepherd to a wolf. For this the Evangel and the mighty Doctors Are derelict, and only the Decretals	4 (3C)	Therefore the penalty the cross held out, If measured by the nature thus assumed, None ever yet with so great justice stung, And none was ever of so great injustice, Considering who the Person was that suffered,	40
135	So studied that it shows upon their margins. On this are Pope and Cardinals intent; Their meditations reach not Nazareth, ♦ There where his pinions Gabriel unfolded; But Vatican and the other parts elect	4	To God and to the Jews one death was pleasing; Earth trembled at it and the Heaven was opened. It should no longer now seem difficult To thee, when it is said that a just vengeance By a just court was afterward avenged.	45
140	Of Rome, which have a cemetery been Unto the soldiery that followed Peter, Shall soon be free from this adultery."		But now do I behold thy mind entangled From thought to thought within a knot, from which With great desire it waits to free itself. Thou sayest, 'Well discern I what I hear; But it is hidden from me why God willed For our redemption only this one mode.'	7.50
9.142	7 66  SANNA <i>sanctus Deus Sabaoth,</i> <i>Superillustrans claritate tua</i> <i>Felices ignes horum malahoth!"</i> In this wise, to his melody returning, This substance, upon which a double light Doubles itself, was seen by me to sing, And to their dance this and the others moved, And in the manner of swift-hurrying sparks	 	Buried remaineth, brother, this decree	7.58
Divine IV Comedy 051	7.8	29	Divine IV Comedy 200	

10.63	Whom in disdain perhaps your Guido had.”	28 (18C)	And that horn of Ausonia, which is town'd	8.61
Divine	His language and the mode of punishment		With Bari, with Gaeta and Catona,	Divine
IV	Already unto me had read his name;		Whence Tronto and Verde in the sea disgorge.	IV
Comedy	On that account my answer was so full.		Already flashed upon my brow the crown	Comedy
	Up starting suddenly, he cried out: “How		Of that dominion which the Danube waters	65
	Saidst thou, — he had? Is he not still alive?		After the German borders it abandons;	
	Does not the sweet light strike upon his eyes?”		And beautiful Trinacria, that is murky	
70	When he became aware of some delay,		’Twixt Pachino and Peloro, (on the gulf	
	Which I before my answer made, supine		Which greatest scath from Eurus doth receive,) 70	
	He fell again, and forth appeared no more.		Not through Typhoeus, but through nascent sulphur,	
	But the other, magnanimous, at whose desire		Would have awaited her own monarchs still,	
	I had remained, did not his aspect change,		Through me from Charles descended and from Rudolph,	
75	Neither his neck he moved, nor bent his side.		If evil lordship, that exasperates ever	
	“And if,” continuing his first discourse,		The subject populations, had not moved	
	“They have that art,” he said, “not learned aright,		Palermo to the outcry of ‘Death! death!’ 75	
	That more tormenteth me, than doth this bed.		And if my brother could but this foresee,	
	But fifty times shall not rekindled be		The greedy poverty of Catalonia	
80	The countenance of the Lady who reigns here		Straight would he flee, that it might not molest him;	
	Ere thou shalt know how heavy is that art;		For verily ’t is needful to provide,	
	And as thou wouldst to the sweet world return,		Through him or other, so that on his bark 80	
	Say why that people is so pitiless		Already freighted no more freight be placed.	
	Against my race in each one of its laws?”		His nature, which from liberal covetous	
85	Whence I to him: “The slaughter and great carnage		Descended, such a soldiery would need	
	Which have with crimson stained the Arbia, cause		As should not care for hoarding in a chest.”	
	Such orisons in our temple to be made.”		“Because I do believe the lofty joy 85	
L1[O]	After his head he with a sigh had shaken,		Thy speech infuses into me, my Lord,	L1[O]
B	“There I was not alone,” he said, “nor surely		Where every good thing doth begin and end	B
90	Without a cause had with the others moved.		Thou seest as I see it, the more grateful	
	But there I was alone, where every one		Is it to me; and this too hold I dear,	
	Consented to the laying waste of Florence,		That gazing upon God thou dost discern it. 90	
	He who defended her with open face.”		Glad hast thou made me; so make clear to me,	
	“Ah! so hereafter may your seed repose,”	5 (4C)	Since speaking thou hast stirred me up to doubt,	
95	I him entreated, “solve for me that knot,		How from sweet seed can bitter issue forth.”	
	Which has entangled my conceptions here.		This I to him; and he to me: “If I	
	It seems that you can see, if I hear rightly,		Can show to thee a truth, to what thou askest 95	
	Beforehand whatsoe’er time brings with it,		Thy face thou ’lt hold as thou dost hold thy back.	
♦	And in the present have another mode.”		The Good which all the realm thou art ascending	
10.100	“We see, like those who have imperfect sight,	5	Turns and contents, maketh its providence	
	The things,” he said, “that distant are from us;		To be a power within these bodies vast	
	So much still shines on us the Sovereign Ruler.		And not alone the natures are foreseen 8.100	
	When they draw near, or are, is wholly vain		Within the mind that in itself is perfect,	
	Our intellect, and if none brings it to us,		But they together with their preservation.	
105	Not anything know we of your human state.		For whatsoever thing this bow shoots forth	
	Hence thou canst understand, that wholly dead		Falls foreordained unto an end foreseen,	
	Will be our knowledge from the moment when		Even as a shaft directed to its mark. 105	
	The portal of the future shall be closed.”		If that were not, the heaven which thou dost walk	
	Then I, as if compunctious for my fault,	⑦	Would in such manner its effects produce,	
110	Said: “Now, then, you will tell that fallen one,		That they no longer would be arts, but ruins.	
	That still his son is with the living joined.		This cannot be, if the Intelligences	
055	10.112 And if just now, in answering, I was dumb,		That keep these stars in motion are not maimed, 8.110	400

8.111	And maimed the First that has not made them perfect. Wilt thou this truth have clearer made to thee?" And I: "Not so; for 't is impossible That nature tire, I see, in what is needful."	29 (19C)	Their cemetery have upon this side With Epicurus all his followers, Who with the body mortal make the soul; But in the question thou dost put to me, Within here shalt thou soon be satisfied, And likewise in the wish thou keepest silent." And I: "Good Leader, I but keep concealed From thee my heart, that I may speak the less, Nor only now hast thou thereto disposed me." "O Tuscan, thou who through the city of fire Goest alive, thus speaking modestly, Be pleased to stay thy footsteps in this place. Thy mode of speaking makes thee manifest A native of that noble fatherland, To which perhaps I too molestful was." Upon a sudden issued forth this sound From out one of the tombs; wherefore I pressed, Fearing, a little nearer to my Leader. And unto me he said: "Turn thee; what dost thou? Behold there Farinata who has risen; From the waist upwards wholly shalt thou see him." I had already fixed mine eyes on his, And he uprose erect with breast and front E'en as if Hell he had in great despite. And with courageous hands and prompt my Leader Thrust me between the sepulchres towards him, Exclaiming, "Let thy words explicit be." As soon as I was at the foot of his tomb, Somewhat he eyed me, and, as if disdainful, Then asked of me, "Who were thine ancestors?" I, who desirous of obeying was, Concealed it not, but all revealed to him; Whereat he raised his brows a little upward. Then said he: "Fiercely adverse have they been To me, and to my fathers, and my party; So that two several times I scattered them." "If they were banished, they returned on all sides," I answered him, "the first time and the second; But yours have not acquired that art aright." Then there uprose upon the sight, uncovered Down to the chin, a shadow at his side; I think that he had risen on his knees. Round me he gazed, as if solicitude He had to see if some one else were with me, But after his suspicion was all spent, Weeping, he said to me: "If through this blind Prison thou goest by loftiness of genius, Where is my son? and why is he not with thee?" And I to him: "I come not of myself; He who is waiting yonder leads me here,	10.13 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 55 60
115	Whence he again: "Now say, would it be worse For men on earth were they not citizens?" "Yes," I replied; "and here I ask no reason." "And can they be so, if below they live not Diversely unto offices diverse?"			
120	No, if your master writeth well for you.' So came he with deductions to this point; Then he concluded: "Therefore it behoves The roots of your effects to be diverse. Hence one is Solon born, another Xerxes, Another Melchisedec, and another he Who, flying through the air, his son did lose. Revolving Nature, which a signet is To mortal wax, doth practise well her art, But not one inn distinguish from another; Thence happens it that Esau differeth In seed from Jacob; and Quirinus comes From sire so vile that he is given to Mars. A generated nature its own way Would always make like its progenitors, If Providence divine were not triumphant.			
125	Now that which was behind thee is before thee; But that thou know that I with thee am pleased, With a corollary will I mantle thee. Evermore nature, if it fortune find Discordant to it, like each other seed Out of its region, maketh evil thrift; And if the world below would fix its mind On the foundation which is laid by nature, Pursuing that, 't would have the people good.			
130	But you unto religion wrench aside Him who was born to gird him with the sword, And make a king of him who is for sermons; Therefore your footsteps wander from the road."			
135				
L1[I] B				L1[I] B
140		6 (5C)		
145				
♦				
8.148		6		10.50
10	NOW onward goes, along a narrow path Between the torments and the city wall, My Master, and I follow at his back. "O power supreme, that through these impious circles Turnest me," I began, "as pleases thee, Speak to me, and my longings satisfy; The people who are lying in these tombs, Might they be seen? already are uplifted The covers all, and no one keepeth guard." And he to me: "They all will be closed up When from Jehoshaphat they shall return Here with the bodies they have left above.			
5				
Divine IV Comedy		⑦		Divine IV Comedy
450				500
10.12		31		10.62

Divine II Comedy	10	And to their dance this and the others moved, And in the manner of swift-hurrying sparks Veiled themselves from me with a sudden distance. Doubting was I, and saying, "Tell her, tell her," Within me, "tell her," saying, "tell my Lady," Who slakes my thirst with her sweet effluences; And yet that reverence which doth lord it over The whole of me only by B and ICE,	30	Tell him I did it because I was thinking Already of the error you have solved me." And now my Master was recalling me, Wherefore more eagerly I prayed the spirit That he would tell me who was with him there. He said: "With more than a thousand here I lie; Within here is the second Frederick, And the Cardinal, and of the rest I speak not."	10.113	Divine IV Comedy
		15		120		
L1[O] C	25	Bowed me again like unto one who drowzes. Short while did Beatrice endure me thus; And she began, lighting me with a smile Such as would make one happy in the fire: "According to infallible advisement, After what manner a just vengeance justly Could be avenged has put thee upon thinking, But I will speedily thy mind unloose; And do thou listen, for these words of mine Of a great doctrine will a present make thee.	7	Thereon he hid himself; and I towards The ancient poet turned my steps, reflecting Upon that saying, which seemed hostile to me. He moved along; and afterward, thus going, He said to me, "Why art thou so bewildered?" And I in his inquiry satisfied him. "Let memory preserve what thou hast heard Against thyself," that Sage commanded me, "And now attend here;" and he raised his finger. "When thou shalt be before the radiance sweet Of her whose beauteous eyes all things behold, From her thou 'lt know the journey of thy life." Unto the left hand then he turned his feet; We left the wall, and went towards the middle, Along a path that strikes into a valley, Which even up there unpleasant made its stench.	125	9 L1[O] C
		30		130		
7.50	40	To where the nature, which from its own Maker Estranged itself, he joined to him in person By the sole act of his eternal love. Now unto what is said direct thy sight; This nature when united to its Maker, Such as created, was sincere and good; But by itself alone was banished forth From Paradise, because it turned aside Out of the way of truth and of its life.	7	T HAT hue which cowardice brought out on me, Beholding my Conductor backward turn, Sooner repressed within him his new color. He stopped attentive, like a man who listens, Because the eye could not conduct him far Through the black air, and through the heavy fog. "Still it behoveth us to win the fight," Began he; "Else . . . Such offered us herself . . . O how I long that some one here arrive!" Well I perceived, as soon as the beginning He covered up with what came afterward, That they were words quite different from the first; But none the less his saying gave me fear, Because I carried out the broken phrase, Perhaps to a worse meaning than he had.	10.136	5
		45		15		
7.56	7.50	Within whom such a nature was contracted. From one act therefore issued things diverse; To God and to the Jews one death was pleasing; Earth trembled at it and the Heaven was opened. It should no longer now seem difficult To thee, when it is said that a just vengeance By a just court was afterward avenged. But now do I behold thy mind entangled From thought to thought within a knot, from which With great desire it waits to free itself. Thou sayest, 'Well discern I what I hear; But it is hidden from me why God willed For our redemption only this one mode.'	7	"Into this bottom of the doleful conch Doth any e'er descend from the first grade, Which for its pain has only hope cut off?" This question put I; and he answered me: "Seldom it comes to pass that one of us Maketh the journey upon which I go. True is it, once before I here below Was conjured by that pitiless Erictho, Who summoned back the shades unto their bodies. Naked of me short while the flesh had been, Before within that wall she made me enter,	20	9.26
		7.56		009		

9.27	To bring a spirit from the circle of Judas; That is the lowest region and the darkest, And farthest from the heaven which circles all.	31	Because I carried out the broken phrase, Perhaps to a worse meaning than he had.	15
30	Well know I the way; therefore be reassured. This fen, which a prodigious stench exhales, Encompasses about the city dolent, Where now we cannot enter without anger.” And more he said, but not in mind I have it;		“Into this bottom of the doleful conch Doth any e’er descend from the first grade, Which for its pain has only hope cut off?” This question put I; and he answered me: “Seldom it comes to pass that one of us Maketh the journey upon which I go. True is it, once before I here below Was conjured by that pitiless Erictho, Who summoned back the shades unto their bodies. Naked of me short while the flesh had been,	20
35	Because mine eye had altogether drawn me Tow’rds the high tower with the red-flaming summit, Where in a moment saw I swift uprisen The three infernal Furies stained with blood, Who had the limbs of women and their mien,		Before within that wall she made me enter, To bring a spirit from the circle of Judas; That is the lowest region and the darkest, And farthest from the heaven which circles all. Well know I the way; therefore be reassured.	25
40	And with the greenest hydras were begirt; Small serpents and cerastes were their tresses, Wherewith their horrid temples were entwined. And he who well the handmaids of the Queen Of everlasting lamentation knew,		This fen, which a prodigious stench exhales, Encompasses about the city dolent, Where now we cannot enter without anger.” And more he said, but not in mind I have it;	30
45	Said unto me: “Behold the fierce Erinnyes. This is Megaera, on the left-hand side; She who is weeping on the right, Alecto; Tisiphone is between”; and then was silent. Each one her breast was rending with her nails;		Because mine eye had altogether drawn me Tow’rds the high tower with the red-flaming summit, Where in a moment saw I swift uprisen The three infernal Furies stained with blood, Who had the limbs of women and their mien,	35
9.50	They beat them with their palms, and cried so loud, That I for dread pressed close unto the Poet. “Medusa come, so we to stone will change him!”		And with the greenest hydras were begirt; Small serpents and cerastes were their tresses, Wherewith their horrid temples were entwined. And he who well the handmaids of the Queen Of everlasting lamentation knew,	L1[I]
L1[I]	All shouted looking down; “in evil hour Avenged we not on Theseus his assault!”		Said unto me: “Behold the fierce Erinnyes. This is Megaera, on the left-hand side; She who is weeping on the right, Alecto; Tisiphone is between”; and then was silent.	40 C
C	“Turn thyself round, and keep thine eyes close shut, For if the Gorgon appear, and thou shouldst see it, No more returning upward would there be.”		Each one her breast was rending with her nails; They beat them with their palms, and cried so loud, That I for dread pressed close unto the Poet.	
55	Thus said the Master; and he turned me round Himself, and trusted not unto my hands	8	“Medusa come, so we to stone will change him!” All shouted looking down; “in evil hour Avenged we not on Theseus his assault!”	45
▼ P-0~2,000	So far as not to blind me with his own. O ye who have undistempered intellects, Observe the doctrine that conceals itself		“Turn thyself round, and keep thine eyes close shut, For if the Gorgon appear, and thou shouldst see it, No more returning upward would there be.”	55
◆	Beneath the veil of the mysterious verses! And now there came across the turbid waves		In this wise, to his melody returning, This substance, upon which a double light Doubles itself, was seen by me to sing,	9.50
65	The clangor of a sound with terror fraught, Because of which both of the margins trembled; Not otherwise it was than of a wind	8		
‡	Impetuous on account of adverse heats, That smites the forest, and, without restraint,			55
70	The branches rends, beats down, and bears away; Right onward, laden with dust, it goes superb, And puts to flight the wild beasts and the shepherds.			9.57
Divine IV Comedy	Mine eyes he loosed, and said: “Direct the nerve Of vision now along that ancient foam, There yonder where that smoke is most intense.”	⑦		7
650	9.76 Even as the frogs before the hostile serpent			Divine IV Comedy
		33		7.6

66  SANNA *sanctus Deus Sabaoth,
Superillustrans claritate tua
Felices ignes horum malahoth!”*

8.94	Think, Reader, if I was discomforted	32	Across the water scatter all abroad,	9.77
Divine IV Comedy	At utterance of the accursed words;		Until each one is huddled in the earth,	Divine IV Comedy
	For never to return here I believed.		More than a thousand ruined souls I saw,	80
	“O my dear Guide, who more than seven times		Thus fleeing from before one who on foot	
	Hast rendered me security, and drawn me		Was passing o’er the Styx with soles unwet.	
8.100	From imminent peril that before me stood,		From off his face he fanned that unctuous air,	
	Do not desert me,” said I, “thus undone;		Waving his left hand oft in front of him,	
	And if the going farther be denied us,		And only with that anguish seemed he weary.	
	Let us retrace our steps together swiftly.”		Well I perceived one sent from Heaven was he,	85
	And that Lord, who had led me thitherward,		And to the Master turned; and he made sign	
	Said unto me: “Fear not; because our passage		That I should quiet stand, and bow before him.	
105	None can take from us, it by Such is given.		Ah! how disdainful he appeared to me!	
	But here await me, and thy weary spirit		He reached the gate, and with a little rod	
	Comfort and nourish with a better hope;		He opened it, for there was no resistance.	90
	For in this nether world I will not leave thee.”		“O banished out of Heaven, people despised!”	
	So onward goes and there abandons me		Thus he began upon the horrid threshold;	
110	My Father sweet, and I remain in doubt,		“Whence is this arrogance within you couched?	
	For No and Yes within my head contend.		Wherefore recalcitrate against that will,	
	I could not hear what he proposed to them;		From which the end can never be cut off,	95
	But with them there he did not linger long,		And which has many times increased your pain?	
	Ere each within in rivalry ran back.		What helpeth it to butt against the fates?	
115	They closed the portals, those our adversaries,		Your Cerberus, if you remember well,	
	On my Lord’s breast, who had remained without		For that still bears his chin and gullet peeled.”	
	And turned to me with footsteps far between.		Then he returned along the miry road,	9.100
	His eyes cast down, his forehead shorn had he		And spake no word to us, but had the look	
L2[O]	Of all its boldness, and he said, with sighs,		Of one whom other care constrains and goads	L2[O]
120	“Who has denied to me the dolesome houses?”		Than that of him who in his presence is;	105
125	And unto me: “Thou, because I am angry,		And we our feet directed tow’rds the city,	
	Fear not, for I will conquer in the trial,		After those holy words all confident.	
	Whatever for defence within be planned.		Within we entered without any contest;	
	This arrogance of theirs is nothing new;		And I, who inclination had to see	
	For once they used it at less secret gate,	9	What the condition such a fortress holds,	
	Which finds itself without a fastening still.		Soon as I was within, cast round mine eye,	
	O’er it didst thou behold the dead inscription;		And see on every hand an ample plain,	^P 7,000 110
	And now this side of it descends the steep,		Full of distress and torment terrible.	
	Passing across the circles without escort,		Even as at Arles, where stagnant grows the Rhone,	
8.130 ♦	One by whose means the city shall be opened.”		Even as at Pola near to the Quarnaro,	
9	THAT hue which cowardice brought out on me,	9	That shuts in Italy and bathes its borders,	
	Beholding my Conductor backward turn,		The sepulchres make all the place uneven;	115
	Sooner repressed within him his new color.		So likewise did they there on every side,	
	He stopped attentive, like a man who listens,		Saving that there the manner was more bitter;	
5	Because the eye could not conduct him far		For flames between the sepulchres were scattered,	
	Through the black air, and through the heavy fog.		By which they so intensely heated were,	
	“Still it behoveth us to win the fight,”		That iron more so asks not any art.	120
	Began he; “Else . . . Such offered us herself . . .		All of their coverings uplifted were,	
	O how I long that some one here arrive!”		And from them issued forth such dire laments,	
10	Well I perceived, as soon as the beginning	7	Sooth seemed they of the wretched and tormented.	
	He covered up with what came afterward,		And I: “My Master, what are all those people	
	That they were words quite different from the first;		Who, having sepulture within those tombs,	
837 9.13	But none the less his saying gave me fear,		Make themselves audible by doleful sighs?”	9.126 700

9.127 And he to me: "Here are the Heresiarchs,
 With their disciples of all sects, and much
 More than thou thinkest laden are the tombs.
 130 Here like together with its like is buried;
 And more and less the monuments are heated."
 And when he to the right had turned, we passed
 9.133 Between the torments and high parapets.
 8 ¶ SAY, continuing, that long before
 ¶ We to the foot of that high tower had come,
 Our eyes went upward to the summit of it,
 By reason of two flamelets we saw placed there,
 5 And from afar another answer them,
 So far, that hardly could the eye attain it.
 And, to the sea of all discernment turned,
 I said: "What sayeth this, and what respondeth
 That other fire? and who are they that made it?"
 10 And he to me: "Across the turbid waves
 What is expected thou canst now discern,
 If reek of the morass conceal it not."
 Cord never shot an arrow from itself
 That sped away athwart the air so swift,
 15 As I beheld a very little boat
 Come o'er the water tow'rds us at that moment,
 Under the guidance of a single pilot,
 Who shouted, "Now art thou arrived, fell soul?"
 L2[I] "Phlegyas, Phlegyas, thou criest out in vain
 C 20 For this once," said my Lord; "thou shalt not have us
 Longer than in the passing of the slough."
 As he who listens to some great deceit
 That has been done to him, and then resents it,
 Such became Phlegyas, in his gathered wrath.
 25 My Guide descended down into the boat,
 And then he made me enter after him,
 And only when I entered seemed it laden.
 Soon as the Guide and I were in the boat,
 The antique prow goes on its way, dividing
 30 ♦ More of the water than 't is wont with others.
 While we were running through the dead canal,
 Uprose in front of me one full of mire,
 And said, "Who 'rt thou that comest ere the hour?"
 And I to him: "Although I come, I stay not;
 35 But who art thou that hast become so squalid?"
 "Thou seest that I am one who weeps," he answered.
 And I to him: "With weeping and with wailing,
 Thou spirit maledict, do thou remain;
 For thee I know, though thou art all defiled."
 Then stretched he both his hands unto the boat;
 Divine 40 Whereat my wary Master thrust him back,
 Comedy Saying, "Away there with the other dogs!"
 750 8.43 Thereafter with his arms he clasped my neck;

33 (20C) He kissed my face, and said: "Disdainful soul,
 Blessed be she who bore thee in her bosom.
 That was an arrogant person in the world;
 Goodness is none, that decks his memory;
 So likewise here his shade is furious.
 How many are esteemed great kings up there,
 Who here shall be like unto swine in mire,
 Leaving behind them horrible dispraises!"
 And I: "My Master, much should I be pleased,
 If I could see him soused into this broth,
 Before we issue forth out of the lake."
 And he to me: "Ere unto thee the shore
 55 Reveal itself, thou shalt be satisfied;
 Such a desire 't is meet thou shouldst enjoy."
 A little after that, I saw such havoc
 Made of him by the people of the mire,
 That still I praise and thank my God for it.
 60 They all were shouting, "At Philippo Argenti!"
 And that exasperate spirit Florentine
 Turned round upon himself with his own teeth.
 We left him there, and more of him I tell not;
 But on mine ears there smote a lamentation,
 65 Whence forward I intent unbar mine eyes.
 And the good Master said: "Even now, my Son,
 The city draweth near whose name is Dis,
 With the grave citizens, with the great throng."
 L2[I] And I: "Its mosques already, Master, clearly
 70 C Within there in the valley I discern
 Vermilion, as if issuing from the fire
 They were." And he to me: "The fire eternal
 That kindles them within makes them look red,
 As thou beholdest in this nether Hell."
 75 Then we arrived within the moats profound,
 That circumvallate that disconsolate city;
 The walls appeared to me to be of iron.
 Not without making first a circuit wide,
 We came unto a place where loud the pilot
 80 Cried out to us, "Debark, here is the entrance."
 More than a thousand at the gates I saw
 Out of the Heavens rained down, who angrily
 Were saying, "Who is this that without death
 Goes through the kingdom of the people dead?"
 85 And my sagacious Master made a sign
 Of wishing secretly to speak with them.
 A little then they quelled their great disdain,
 And said: "Come thou alone, and he begone
 Who has so boldly entered these dominions.
 90 Divine Let him return alone by his mad road;
 Comedy Try, if he can; for thou shalt here remain,
 800 Who hast escorted him through such dark regions." 8.93

10.17 Much virtue in the heavens would be in vain,
Divine V And almost every power below here dead.
Comedy
20 If from the straight line distant more or less
Were the departure, much would wanting be
Above and underneath of mundane order.
Remain now, Reader, still upon thy bench,
In thought pursuing that which is foretasted,
If thou wouldst jocund be instead of weary.
25 I've set before thee; henceforth feed thyself,
For to itself diverteth all my care
That theme whereof I have been made the scribe.
The greatest of the ministers of nature,
Who with the power of heaven the world imprints
30 And measures with his light the time for us,
With that part which above is called to mind
Conjoined, along the spirals was revolving,
Where each time earlier he presents himself;
And I was with him; but of the ascending
35 I was not conscious, saving as a man
Of a first thought is conscious ere it come;
And Beatrice, she who is seen to pass
From good to better, and so suddenly
That not by time her action is expressed,
40 How lucent in herself must she have been!
And what was in the sun, wherein I entered,
L1[O] Apparent not by color but by light,
A I, though I call on genius, art, and practice,
Cannot so tell that it could be imagined;
45 Believe one can, and let him long to see it.
And if our fantasies too lowly are
For altitude so great, it is no marvel,
♦ Since o'er the sun was never eye could go.
1 Such in this place was the fourth family
10.50 Of the high Father, who forever sates it,
Showing how he breathes forth and how begets.
And Beatrice began: "Give thanks, give thanks
Unto the Sun of Angels, who to this
Sensible one has raised thee by his grace!"
55 Never was heart of mortal so disposed
1 To worship, nor to give itself to God
To worship, nor to give itself to God
With all its gratitude was it so ready,
As at those words did I myself become;
And all my love was so absorbed in Him,
60 That in oblivion Beatrice was eclipsed.
Nor this displeased her; but she smiled at it
So that the splendor of her laughing eyes
My single mind on many things divided.
Lights many saw I, vivid and triumphant,
Make us a centre and themselves a circle,
350 10.66 More sweet in voice than luminous in aspect.

34

7

V

LONGFELLOW

DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY

EPIC POEM

. O R G
DIGITAL CLASSICSBALANCED
MIDFILLS

12

12

2L A 11, 12, 10.66

3L B 10.67, 13.1101

2L C 13.102, 12, 11

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Paradiso 11: 139 12: 145 10: 148 = 432

Inferno 13: 151 12: 139 11: 115 = 405

QUICK START

11 [1] 13 [433]

12 [140] 12 [584]

10 [285] 11 [723]

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti descend I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.Inferno tri-Canti descend;
Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;
Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

V

7

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EPICPOEM.ORG 837 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;PRINT
2-SIDED:
36 to 45

7

36

11 **O** THOU insensate care of mortal men,
 How inconclusive are the syllogisms
 That make thee beat thy wings in downward flight!
 One after laws and one to aphorisms
 5 Was going, and one following the priesthood,
 And one to reign by force or sophistry,
 And one in theft, and one in state affairs,
 One in the pleasures of the flesh involved
 Wearied himself, one gave himself to ease;
 10 When I, from all these things emancipate,
 With Beatrice above there in the Heavens
 With such exceeding glory was received!
 When each one had returned unto that point
 Within the circle where it was before,
 15 It stood as in a candlestick a candle;
 And from within the effulgence which at first
 Had spoken unto me, I heard begin
 Smiling while it more luminous became:
 “Even as I am kindled in its ray,
 20 So, looking into the Eternal Light,
 The occasion of thy thoughts I apprehend.
 Thou doubttest, and wouldst have me to resift
 In language so extended and so open
 My speech, that to thy sense it may be plain,
 25 Where just before I said, ‘where well one fattens,’
L1[I] And where I said, ‘there never rose a second’;
A And here ’t is needful we distinguish well.
 The Providence, which governeth the world
 With counsel, wherein all created vision
 30 Is vanquished ere it reach unto the bottom,
 (So that towards her own Beloved might go
 ♦ The bride of Him who, uttering a loud cry,
 Espoused her with his consecrated blood,
 Self-confident and unto Him more faithful.)
 35 Two Princes did ordain in her behoof,
 Which on this side and that might be her guide.
 The one was all seraphical in ardor;
 The other by his wisdom upon earth
 A splendor was of light cherubical.
 40 One will I speak of, for of both is spoken
 In praising one, whichever may be taken,
 Because unto one end their labors were.
 Between Tupino and the stream that falls
 Down from the hill elect of blessed Ubald,
 45 A fertile slope of lofty mountain hangs,
 From which Perugia feels the cold and heat
 Through Porta Sole, and behind it weep
 Gualdo and Nocera their grievous yoke.
 From out that slope, there where it breaketh most
 50 **11.50** Its steepness, rose upon the world a sun

35 (21C)

2 (1C)

2

⑦

37

But still the orbit, which the highest part
 Of its circumference made, is derelict,
 So that the mould is where was once the crust.
 His family, that had straight forward moved
 115 With feet upon his footprints, are turned round
 So that they set the point upon the heel.
 And soon aware they will be of the harvest
 Of this bad husbandry, when shall the tares
 Complain the granary is taken from them.
 120 Yet say I, he who searcheth leaf by leaf
 Our volume through, would still some page discover
 Where he could read, ‘I am as I am wont.’
 ’T will not be from Casal nor Acquasparta,
 From whence come such unto the written word
 125 That one avoids it, and the other narrows.
 Bonaventura of Bagnoregio’s life
 Am I, who always in great offices
 Postponed considerations sinister.
 Here are Illuminato and Agostino,
 130 Who of the first barefooted beggars were
 That with the cord the friends of God became.
 Hugh of Saint Victor is among them here,
 And Peter Mangiador, and Peter of Spain,
 Who down below in volumes twelve is shining;
 135 Nathan the seer, and metropolitan
 Chrysostom, and Anselmus, and Donatus
L1[I] Who deigned to lay his hand to the first art;
A Here is Rabanus, and beside me here
 Shines the Calabrian Abbot Joachim,
 140 He with the spirit of prophecy endowed.
 To celebrate so great a paladin
 Have moved me the impassioned courtesy
 And the discreet discourses of Friar Thomas,
 And with me they have moved this company.”
 12.145
10 **L**OOKING into his Son with all the Love
 Which each of them eternally breathes forth
 The Primal and unutterable Power
 Whate’er before the mind or eye revolves
 5 With so much order made, there can be none
 Who this beholds without enjoying Him.
 Lift up then, Reader, to the lofty wheels
 With me thy vision straight unto that part
 Where the one motion on the other strikes,
 And there begin to contemplate with joy
 10 That Master’s art, who in himself so loves it
 That never doth his eye depart therefrom.
 Behold how from that point goes branching off
 The oblique circle, which conveys the planets,
 To satisfy the world that calls upon them
 And if their pathway were not thus inflected, 10.16 **300**

12.112

115

120

125

130

135

L1[I]

A

140

12.145

10

5

10

Divine
v
Comedy

12.62	Between him and the Faith at holy font,	36 (22C)	As this one does sometimes from out the Ganges;	11.51
Divine V Comedy	Where they with mutual safety dowered each other,		Therefore let him who speaketh of that place,	Divine V Comedy
65	The woman, who for him had given assent,		Say not Ascesi, for he would say little,	
	Saw in a dream the admirable fruit		But Orient, if he properly would speak.	
	That issue would from him and from his heirs;		He was not yet far distant from his rising	55
	And that he might be construed as he was,		Before he had begun to make the earth	
	A spirit from this place went forth to name him		Some comfort from his mighty virtue feel.	
70	With His possessive whose he wholly was.		For he in youth his father's wrath incurred	
	Dominic was he called; and him I speak of		For certain Dame, to whom, as unto death,	
	Even as of the husbandman whom Christ		The gate of pleasure no one doth unlock;	60
	Elected to his garden to assist him.		And was before his spiritual court	
	Envoy and servant sooth he seemed of Christ,		<i>Et coram patre</i> unto her united;	
75	For the first love made manifest in him		Then day by day more fervently he loved her.	
	Was the first counsel that was given by Christ.		She, reft of her first husband, scorned, obscure,	
	Silent and wakeful many a time was he		One thousand and one hundred years and more,	65
	Discovered by his nurse upon the ground,		Waited without a suitor till he came.	
	As if he would have said, 'For this I came.'		Naught it availed to hear, that with Amyclas	
	O thou his father, Felix verily!		Found her unmoved at sounding of his voice	
80	O thou his mother, verily Joanna,		He who struck terror into all the world;	
	If this, interpreted, means as is said!		Naught it availed being constant and undaunted,	70
	Not for the world which people toil for now		So that, when Mary still remained below,	
	In following Ostiense and Taddeo,		She mounted up with Christ upon the cross!	
	But through his longing after the true manna,		But that too darkly I may not proceed,	
85	He in short time became so great a teacher,		Francis and Poverty for these two lovers	
	That he began to go about the vineyard,		Take thou henceforward in my speech diffuse.	75
L2[O]	Which fadeth soon, if faithless be the dresser;		Their concord and their joyous semblances,	L2[O]
A	And of the See, (that once was more benignant		The love, the wonder, and the sweet regard,	A
	Unto the righteous poor, not through itself,		They made to be the cause of holy thoughts;	
90	But him who sits there and degenerates,)		So much so that the venerable Bernard	
	Not to dispense or two or three for six,		First bared his feet, and after so great peace	80
	Not any fortune of first vacancy,		Ran, and, in running, thought himself too slow.	
VP 3,000 ♦	<i>Non decimas quae sunt pauperum Dei,</i>	3 (2C)	O wealth unknown! O veritable good!	
	He asked for, but against the errant world		Giles bares his feet, and bares his feet Sylvester	
95	Permission to do battle for the seed,		Behind the bridegroom, so doth please the bride!	
	Of which these four and twenty plants surround thee		Then goes his way that father and that master,	85
	Then with the doctrine and the will together,		He and his Lady and that family	
	With office apostolical he moved,		Which now was girding on the humble cord;	
	Like torrent which some lofty vein out-presses;		Nor cowardice of heart weighed down his brow	
12.100	And in among the shoots heretical	3	At being son of Peter Bernardone,	
	His impetus with greater fury smote,		Nor for appearing marvellously scorned;	90
	Wherever the resistance was the greatest.		But regally his hard determination	
	Of him were made thereafter divers runnels,		To Innocent he opened, and from him	
	Whereby the garden catholic is watered,		Received the primal seal upon his Order.	
105	So that more living its plantations stand.		After the people mendicant increased	
	If such the one wheel of the Biga was,		Behind this man, whose admirable life	95
	In which the Holy Church itself defended		Better in glory of the heavens were sung,	
	And in the field its civic battle won,	⑦	Incoronated with a second crown	
	Truly full manifest should be to thee		Was through Honorius by the Eternal Spirit	
	The excellence of the other, unto whom		The holy purpose of this Archimandrite.	
250	12.111 Thomas so courteous was before my coming.	38	And when he had, through thirst of martyrdom,	11.100 100

11.101	In the proud presence of the Sultan preached Christ and the others who came after him, And, finding for conversion too unripe The folk, and not to tarry there in vain,	37 (23C)	When Juno to her handmaid gives command, (The one without born of the one within, Like to the speaking of that vagrant one Whom love consumed as doth the sun the vapors,)	12.12 15
105	Returned to fruit of the Italic grass, On the rude rock 'twixt Tiber and the Arno From Christ did he receive the final seal, Which during two whole years his members bore. When He, who chose him unto so much good,		And make the people here, through covenant God set with Noah, presageful of the world That shall no more be covered with a flood, In such wise of those sempiternal roses	
110	Was pleased to draw him up to the reward That he had merited by being lowly, Unto his friars, as to the rightful heirs, His most dear Lady did he recommend, And bade that they should love her faithfully;		The garlands twain encompassed us about, And thus the outer to the inner answered. After the dance, and other grand rejoicings, Both of the singing, and the flaming forth Effulgence with effulgence blithe and tender,	20 25
115	And from her bosom the illustrious soul Wished to depart, returning to its realm, And for its body wished no other bier. Think now what man was he, who was a fit Companion over the high seas to keep		Together, at once, with one accord had stopped, (Even as the eyes, that, as volition moves them, Must needs together shut and lift themselves,) Out of the heart of one of the new lights There came a voice, that needle to the star Made me appear in turning thitherward.	
120	The bark of Peter to its proper bearings. And this man was our Patriarch; hence whoever Doth follow him as he commands can see That he is laden with good merchandise. But for new pasturage his flock has grown		And it began: "The love that makes me fair Draws me to speak about the other leader, By whom so well is spoken here of mine. 'T is right, where one is, to bring in the other, That, as they were united in their warfare,	30 35
125	So greedy, that it is impossible L2[I] They be not scattered over fields diverse; A And in proportion as his sheep remote And vagabond go farther off from him, More void of milk return they to the fold.		Together likewise may their glory shine. The soldiery of Christ, which it had cost So dear to arm again, behind the standard Moved slow and doubtful and in numbers few, When the Emperor who reigneth evermore	L2[I] A 40
130	Verily some there are that fear a hurt, And keep close to the shepherd; but so few, ♦ That little cloth doth furnish forth their hoods.	4 (3C)	Provided for the host that was in peril, Through grace alone and not that it was worthy; And, as was said, he to his Bride brought succor With champions twain, at whose deed, at whose word The straggling people were together drawn.	
135	Now if my utterance be not indistinct, If thine own hearing hath attentive been, If thou recall to mind what I have said, In part contented shall thy wishes be; For thou shalt see the plant that's chipped away, And the rebuke that lieth in the words,		Within that region where the sweet west wind Rises to open the new leaves, wherewith Europe is seen to clothe herself afresh, Not far off from the beating of the waves, Behind which in his long career the sun	45 12.50
11.139 12	S 'Where well one fattens, if he strayeth not.'" SOON as the blessed flame had taken up The final word to give it utterance, Began the holy millstone to revolve, And in its gyre had not turned wholly round,	4	Sometimes conceals himself from every man, Is situate the fortunate Calahorra, Under protection of the mighty shield In which the Lion subject is and sovereign. Therein was born the amorous paramour	
5	Before another in a ring enclosed it, And motion joined to motion, song to song; Song that as greatly doth transcend our Muses, Our Sirens, in those dulcet clarions, As primal splendor that which is reflected. And as are spanned athwart a tender cloud	⑦	Replete with such a living energy, That in his mother her it made prophetic. As soon as the espousals were complete	55 200
Divine v Comedy 1501	12.11 Two rainbows parallel and like in color,	39		Divine v Comedy 12.61

13.69 That my glad honors turned to dismal mournings.
 Divine 70 My spirit, in disdainful exultation,
 V Comedy Thinking by dying to escape disdain,
 Made me unjust against myself, the just.
 I, by the roots unwonted of this wood,
 Do swear to you that never broke I faith
 75 Unto my lord, who was so worthy of honor;
 And to the world if one of you return,
 Let him my memory comfort, which is lying
 Still prostrate from the blow that envy dealt it."
 Waited awhile, and then: "Since he is silent,"
 80 The Poet said to me, "lose not the time,
 But speak, and question him, if more may please thee."
 Whence I to him: "Do thou again inquire
 Concerning what thou thinks't will satisfy me;
 For I can not, such pity is in my heart."
 85 Therefore he recommenced: "So may the man
 Do for thee freely what thy speech implores,
 Spirit incarcerate, again be pleased
 To tell us in what way the soul is bound
 Within these knots; and tell us, if thou canst
 90 If any from such members e'er is freed."
 Then blew the trunk amain, and afterward
 The wind was into such a voice converted:
 "With brevity shall be replied to you.
 L1[O] When the exasperated soul abandons
 B The body whence it rent itself away,
 Minos consigns it to the seventh abyss.
 It falls into the forest, and no part
 Is chosen for it; but where Fortune hurls it,
 There like a grain of spelt it germinates.
 13.100 ♦ It springs a sapling, and a forest tree;
 The Harpies, feeding then upon its leaves,
 Do pain create, and for the pain an outlet.
 Like others for our spoils shall we return;
 But not that any one may them revest,
 105 For 't is not just to have what one casts off.
 Here we shall drag them, and along the dismal
 Forest our bodies shall suspended be,
 Each to the thorn of his molested shade."
 We were attentive still unto the trunk,
 110 Thinking that more it yet might wish to tell us,
 When by a tumult we were overtaken,
 In the same way as he is who perceives
 The boar and chase approaching to his stand,
 Who hears the crashing of the beasts and branches;
 115 And two behold! upon our left-hand side,
 Naked and scratched, fleeing so furiously,
 That of the forest every fan they broke.
 055 13.118 He who was in advance: "Now help, Death, help!"

38 (24C)

5 (4C)

5

⑦

40

Thus girt about the daughter of Latona
 10.67 We sometimes see, when pregnant is the air,
 Divine V Comedy So that it holds the thread which makes her zone.
 70 Within the court of Heaven, whence I return,
 Are many jewels found, so fair and precious
 They cannot be transported from the realm;
 And of them was the singing of those lights.
 Who takes not wings that he may fly up thither,
 The tidings thence may from the dumb await!
 75 As soon as singing thus those burning suns
 Had round about us whirled themselves three times,
 Like unto stars neighboring the steadfast poles,
 Ladies they seemed, not from the dance released,
 But who stop short, in silence listening
 80 Till they have gathered the new melody.
 And within one I heard beginning: "When
 The radiance of grace, by which is kindled
 True love, and which thereafter grows by loving,
 Within thee multiplied is so resplendent
 85 That it conducts thee upward by that stair,
 Where without reascending none descends,
 Who should deny the wine out of his vial
 Unto thy thirst, in liberty were not
 Except as water which descends not seaward.
 90 Fain wouldst thou know with what plants is enflowered
 This garland that encircles with delight
 L1[O] The Lady fair who makes thee strong for heaven.
 B Of the lambs was I of the holy flock
 Which Dominic conducteth by a road
 95 Where well one fattens if he strayeth not.
 He who is nearest to me on the right
 My brother and master was; and he Albertus
 Is of Cologne, I Thomas of Aquinum.
 If thou of all the others wouldst be certain,
 10.100 Follow behind my speaking with thy sight
 Upward along the blessed garland turning.
 That next effulgence issues from the smile
 Of Gratian, who assisted both the courts
 105 In such wise that it pleased in Paradise.
 The other which near by adorns our choir
 That Peter was who, e'en as the poor widow,
 Offered his treasure unto Holy Church.
 The fifth light, that among us is the fairest,
 110 Breathes forth from such a love, that all the world
 Below is greedy to learn tidings of it.
 Within it is the lofty mind, where knowledge
 So deep was put, that, if the true be true,
 To see so much there never rose a second.
 Thou seest next the lustre of that taper,
 Which in the flesh below looked most within 10.116 400

10.117 The angelic nature and its ministry.
 Within that other little light is smiling
 The advocate of the Christian centuries,
 120 Out of whose rhetoric Augustine was furnished.
 Now if thou trainest thy mind's eye along
 From light to light pursuant of my praise,
 With thirst already of the eighth thou waitest.
 By seeing every good therein exults
 125 The sainted soul, which the fallacious world
 Makes manifest to him who listeneth well;
 The body whence 't was hunted forth is lying
 Down in Cieldauro, and from martyrdom
 And banishment it came unto this peace.
 130 See farther onward flame the burning breath
 Of Isidore, of Beda, and of Richard
 Who was in contemplation more than man.
 This, whence to me returneth thy regard,
 The light is of a spirit unto whom
 135 In his grave ^{P MID V}meditations death seemed slow.
 It is the light eternal of Sigier,
 Who, reading lectures in the Street of Straw,
 Did syllogize invidious verities."
 Then, as a horologe that calleth us
 140 What time the Bride of God is rising up
 With matins to her Spouse that he may love her,
 L1[I] Wherein one part the other draws and urges,
 B Ting! ting! resounding with so sweet a note,
 That swells with love the spirit well disposed,
 145 Thus I beheld the glorious wheel move round,
 And render voice to voice, in modulation
 And sweetness that can not be comprehended,
 10.148 ♦ Excepting there where joy is made eternal.
 13 NOT yet had Nessus reached the other side,
 When we had put ourselves within a wood,
 That was not marked by any path whatever.
 Not foliage green, but of a dusky color,
 5 Not branches smooth, but gnarled and intertangled,
 Not apple-trees were there, but thorns with poison.
 Such tangled thickets have not, nor so dense,
 Those savage wild-beasts, that in hatred hold
 'Twixt Cecina and Corneto the tilled places.
 10 There do the hideous Harpies make their nests,
 Who chased the Trojans from the Strophades,
 With sad announcement of impending doom;
 Broad wings have they, and necks and faces human,
 And feet with claws, and their great bellies fledged;
 They make laments upon the wondrous trees.
 And the good Master: "Ere thou enter farther,
 Know that thou art within the second round,"
 450 13.18 Thus he began to say, "and shalt be, till

39 (25C) Thou comest out upon the horrible sand; 13.19
 Therefore look well around, and thou shalt see 20
 Things that will credence give unto my speech."
 I heard on all sides lamentations uttered,
 And person none beheld I who might make them,
 Whence, utterly bewildered, I stood still.
 I think he thought that I perhaps might think 25
 So many voices issued through those trunks
 From people who concealed themselves from us;
 Therefore the Master said: "If thou break off
 Some little spray from any of these trees,
 The thoughts thou hast will wholly be made vain." 30
 Then stretched I forth my hand a little forward,
 And plucked a branchlet off from a great thorn,
 And the trunk cried, "Why dost thou mangle me?"
 After it had become embrowned with blood,
 It recommenced its cry: "Why dost thou rend me?" 35
 Hast thou no spirit of pity whatsoever?
 Men once we were, and now are changed to trees;
 Indeed, thy hand should be more pitiful,
 Even if the souls of serpents we had been."
 As out of a green brand, that is on fire 40
 At one of the ends, and from the other drips
 And hisses with the wind that is escaping;
 So from that splinter issued forth together
 Both words and blood; whereat I let the tip L1[I]
 Fall, and stood like a man who is afraid. B
 "Had he been able sooner to believe,"
 My Sage made answer, "O thou wounded soul,
 What only in my verses he has seen,
 Not upon thee had he stretched forth his hand;
 Whereas the thing incredible has caused me 13.50
 To put him to an act which grieveth me.
 But tell him who thou wast, so that by way
 Of some amends thy fame he may refresh
 Up in the world, to which he can return."
 And the trunk said: "So thy sweet words allure me, 55
 I can not silent be; and you be vexed not,
 That I a little to discourse am tempted.
 I am the one who both keys had in keeping
 Of Frederick's heart, and turned them to and fro
 So softly in unlocking and in locking, 60
 That from his secrets most men I withheld;
 Fidelity I bore the glorious office
 So great, I lost thereby my sleep and pulses.
 The courtesan who never from the dwelling
 Of Caesar turned aside her strumpet eyes,
 Death universal and the vice of courts,
 Inflamed against me all the other minds,
 And they, inflamed, did so inflame Augustus, 13.68 500

For from the mountain's top, from which it moved,
Unto the plain the cliff is shattered so,
Some path 't would give to him who was above;
Even such was the descent of that ravine,
And on the border of the broken chasm
The infamy of Crete was stretched along,
Who was conceived in the fictitious cow;
And when he us beheld, he bit himself,
Even as one whom anger racks within.
My Sage towards him shouted: "Peradventure
Thou think'st that here may be the Duke of Athens,
Who in the world above brought death to thee?
Get thee gone, beast, for this one cometh not
Instructed by thy sister, but he comes
In order to behold your punishments."
As is that bull who breaks loose at the moment
In which he has received the mortal blow,
Who cannot walk, but staggers here and there,
The Minotaur beheld I do the like;
And he, the wary, cried: "Run to the passage;
While he wroth, 't is well thou shouldst descend."
Thus down we took our way o'er that discharge
Of stones, which oftentimes did move themselves
Beneath my feet, from the unwonted burden.
Thoughtful I went; and he said: "Thou art thinking
Perhaps upon this ruin, which is guarded
By that brute anger which just now I quenched.
Now will I have thee know, the other time
I here descended to the nether Hell,
This precipice had not yet fallen down.
But truly, if I well discern, a little
Before His coming who the mighty spoil
Bore off from Dis, in the supernal circle,
Upon all sides the deep and loathsome valley
Trembled so, that I thought the Universe
Was thrilled with love, by which there are who think
The world oftentimes converted into chaos;
And at that moment this primeval crag
Both here and elsewhere made such overthrow.
But fix thine eyes below; for draweth near
The river of blood, within which boiling is
Whoe'er by violence doth injure others."
O blind cupidity, O wrath insane,
That spurs us onward so in our short life,
And in the eternal then so badly steeps us!
I saw an ample moat bent like a bow,
As one which all the plain encompasses,
Conformable to what my Guide had said.
And between this and the embankment's foot
Centaur's in file were running, armed with arrows,
As in the world they used the chase to follow.

And the other one, who seemed to lag too much,
Was shouting: "Lano, were not so alert
Those legs of thine at joustings of the Toppo!"
And then, perchance because his breath was failing,
He grouped himself together with a bush.
Behind them was the forest full of black
She-mastiffs, ravenous, and swift of foot
As greyhounds, who are issuing from the chain.
On him who had crouched down they set their teeth,
And him they lacerated piece by piece,
Thereafter bore away those aching members.
Thereat my Escort took me by the hand,
And led me to the bush, that all in vain
Was weeping from its bloody lacerations.
"O Jacopo," it said, "of Sant' Andrea,
What helped it thee of me to make a screen?
What blame have I in thy nefarious life?"
When near him had the Master stayed his steps,
He said: "Who wast thou, that through wounds so many
Art blowing out with blood thy dolorous speech?"
And he to us: "O souls, that hither come
To look upon the shameful massacre
That has so rent away from me my leaves,
Gather them up beneath the dismal bush;
I of that city was which to the Baptist
Changed its first patron, wherefore he for this
Forever with his art will make it sad.
And were it not that on the pass of Arno
Some glimpses of him are remaining still,
Those citizens, who afterwards rebuilt it
Upon the ashes left by Attila,
In vain had caused their labor to be done.
Of my own house I made myself a gibbet."
THE place where to descend the bank we came
Was alpine, and from what was there, moreover,
Of such a kind that every eye would shun it.
Such as that ruin is which in the flank
Smote, on this side of Trent, the Adige,
Either by earthquake or by failing stay,
For from the mountain's top, from which it moved,
Unto the plain the cliff is shattered so,
Some path 't would give to him who was above;
Even such was the descent of that ravine,
And on the border of the broken chasm
The infamy of Crete was stretched along,
Who was conceived in the fictitious cow;
And when he us beheld, he bit himself,
Even as one whom anger racks within.
My Sage towards him shouted: "Peradventure
Thou think'st that here may be the Duke of Athens,

12.18	Who in the world above brought death to thee? Get thee gone, beast, for this one cometh not	41	Like to the speaking of that vagrant one Whom love consumed as doth the sun the vapors,)	15
20	Instructed by thy sister, but he comes In order to behold your punishments.” As is that bull who breaks loose at the moment In which he has received the mortal blow, Who cannot walk, but staggers here and there,		And make the people here, through covenant God set with Noah, presageful of the world That shall no more be covered with a flood, In such wise of those sempiternal roses	20
25	The Minotaur beheld I do the like; And he, the wary, cried: “Run to the passage; While he wroth, ’t is well thou shouldst descend.” Thus down we took our way o’er that discharge Of stones, which oftentimes did move themselves		The garlands twain encompassed us about, And thus the outer to the inner answered. After the dance, and other grand rejoicings, Both of the singing, and the flaming forth Effulgence with effulgence blithe and tender,	25
30	Beneath my feet, from the unwonted burden. Thoughtful I went; and he said: “Thou art thinking Perhaps upon this ruin, which is guarded By that brute anger which just now I quenched. Now will I have thee know, the other time		Together, at once, with one accord had stopped, (Even as the eyes, that, as volition moves them, Must needs together shut and lift themselves,) Out of the heart of one of the new lights There came a voice, that needle to the star Made me appear in turning thitherward.	30
35	I here descended to the nether Hell, This precipice had not yet fallen down. But truly, if I well discern, a little Before His coming who the mighty spoil Bore off from Dis, in the supernal circle,		And it began: “The love that makes me fair Draws me to speak about the other leader, By whom so well is spoken here of mine. ’T is right, where one is, to bring in the other, That, as they were united in their warfare,	35
40	Upon all sides the deep and loathsome valley Trembled so, that I thought the Universe Was thrilled with love, by which there are who think The world ofttimes converted into chaos; And at that moment this primeval crag		Together likewise may their glory shine. The soldiery of Christ, which it had cost So dear to arm again, behind the standard Moved slow and doubtful and in numbers few, When the Emperor who reigneth evermore	40
L1[I] C	P MID V Both here and elsewhere made such overthrow. But fix thine eyes below; for draweth near The river of blood, within which boiling is Whoe’er by violence doth injure others.”		Provided for the host that was in peril, Through grace alone and not that it was worthy; And, as was said, he to his Bride brought succor With champions twain, at whose deed, at whose word The straggling people were together drawn.	L1[I] C
♦ 12.50	O blind cupidity, O wrath insane, That spurs us onward so in our short life, And in the eternal then so badly steeps us! I saw an ample moat bent like a bow, As one which all the plain encompasses, Conformable to what my Guide had said.	8	Within that region where the sweet west wind Rises to open the new leaves, wherewith Europe is seen to clothe herself afresh, Not far off from the beating of the waves, Behind which in his long career the sun	45 12.50
55	And between this and the embankment’s foot Centaur in file were running, armed with arrows, As in the world they used the chase to follow. Beholding us descend, each one stood still, And from the squadron three detached themselves,	8	Sometimes conceals himself from every man, Is situate the fortunate Calahorra, Under protection of the mighty shield In which the Lion subject is and sovereign. Therein was born the amorous paramour	55
60	With bows and arrows in advance selected; And from afar one cried: “Unto what torment Come ye, who down the hillside are descending? Tell us from there; if not, I draw the bow.” My Master said: “Our answer will we make To Chiron, near you there; in evil hour, That will of thine was evermore so hasty.”		Kind to his own and cruel to his foes; T HE place where to descend the bank we came Was alpine, and from what was there, moreover, Of such a kind that every eye would shun it. Such as that ruin is which in the flank Smote, on this side of Trent, the Adige, Either by earthquake or by failing stay,	12.57 12
Divine V Comedy 650	12.67 Then touched he me, and said: “This one is Nessus,	43		Divine V Comedy 12.6

11.79 Hast thou no recollection of those words
 Divine 80 With which thine Ethics thoroughly discusses
 Comedy V The dispositions three, that Heaven abides not, —
 Incontinence, and Malice, and insane
 ‡ Bestiality? and how Incontinence
 Less God offendeth, and less blame attracts?
 85 If thou regardest this conclusion well,
 And to thy mind recallest who they are
 That up outside are undergoing penance,
 Clearly wilt thou perceive why from these felons
 They separated are, and why less wroth
 90 Justice divine doth smite them with its hammer.”
 “O Sun, that healest all distempered vision,
 Thou dost content me so, when thou resolvest,
 That doubting pleases me no less than knowing!
 Once more a little backward turn thee,” said I,
 95 “There where thou sayest that usury offends
 Goodness divine, and disengage the knot.”
 “Philosophy,” he said, “to him who heeds it,
 Noteth, not only in one place alone,
 After what manner Nature takes her course
 11.100 From Intellect Divine, and from its art;
 And if thy Physics carefully thou notest,
 After not many pages shalt thou find,
 That this your art as far as possible
 L2[O] Follows, as the disciple doth the master;
 C So that your art is, as it were, God’s grandchild.
 From these two, if thou bringest to thy mind
 Genesis at the beginning, it behoves
 Mankind to gain their life and to advance;
 And since the usurer takes another way,
 110 Nature herself and in her follower
 Disdains he, for elsewhere he puts his hope.
 But follow, now, as I would fain go on,
 For quivering are the Fishes on the horizon,
 And the Wain wholly over Caurus lies,
 11.115 ♦ And far beyond there we descend the crag.”
 12 SOON as the blessed flame had taken up
 The final word to give it utterance,
 Began the holy millstone to revolve,
 And in its gyre had not turned wholly round,
 5 Before another in a ring enclosed it,
 And motion joined to motion, song to song;
 Song that as greatly doth transcend our Muses,
 Our Sirens, in those dulcet clarions,
 As primal splendor that which is reflected.
 10 And as are spanned athwart a tender cloud
 Two rainbows parallel and like in color,
 When Juno to her handmaid gives command,
 837 12.13 (The one without born of the one within,

42 Who perished for the lovely Dejanira, 12.68
 And for himself, himself did vengeance take. Divine
 And he in the midst, who at his breast is gazing, 70 Comedy
 Is the great Chiron, who brought up Achilles;
 That other Pholus is, who was so wrathful.
 Thousands and thousands go about the moat
 Shooting with shafts whatever soul emerges
 Out of the blood, more than his crime allots.” 75
 Near we approached unto those monsters fleet;
 Chiron an arrow took, and with the notch
 Backward upon his jaws he put his beard.
 After he had uncovered his great mouth,
 He said to his companions: “Are you ware 80
 That he behind moveth whate’er he touches?
 Thus are not wont to do the feet of dead men.”
 And my good Guide, who now was at his breast,
 Where the two natures are together joined,
 Replied: “Indeed he lives, and thus alone 85
 Me it behoves to show him the dark valley;
 Necessity, and not delight, impels us.
 Some one withdrew from singing Halleluja,
 Who unto me committed this new office;
 No thief is he, nor I a thievish spirit. 90
 But by that virtue through which I am moving
 My steps along this savage thoroughfare,
 Give us some one of thine, to be with us, L2[O]
 And who may show us where to pass the ford, C
 And who may carry this one on his back;
 For ’t is no spirit that can walk the air.”
 Upon his right breast Chiron wheeled about,
 And said to Nessus: “Turn and do thou guide them,
 And warn aside, if other band may meet you.”
 We with our faithful escort onward moved 12.100
 Along the brink of the vermilion boiling,
 Wherein the boiled were uttering loud laments.
 People I saw within up to the eyebrows,
 And the great Centaur said: “Tyrants are these,
 Who dealt in bloodshed and in pillaging. 105
 Here they lament their pitiless mischiefs; here
 Is Alexander, and fierce Dionysius
 Who upon Sicily brought dolorous years.
 That forehead there which has the hair so black
 Is Azzolin; and the other who is blond, 110
 Obizzo is of Esti, who, in truth,
 Up in the world was by his step-son slain.”
 Then turned I to the Poet; and he said,
 “Now he be first to thee, and second I.”
 A little farther on the Centaur stopped 115
 Above a folk, who far down as the throat
 Seemed from that boiling stream to issue forth. 12.117 700

12.118	A shade he showed us on one side alone, Saying: "He cleft asunder in God's bosom	43 (26C)	But since force may be used against three persons, In three rounds 't is divided and constructed.	11.29 30
120	The heart that still upon the Thames is honored." Then people saw I, who from out the river Lifted their heads and also all the chest; And many among these I recognized. Thus ever more and more grew shallower		To God, to ourselves, and to our neighbor can we Use force; I say on them and on their things, As thou shalt hear with reason manifest. A death by violence, and painful wounds, Are to our neighbor given; and in his substance	35
125	That blood, so that the feet alone it covered; And there across the moat our passage was. "Even as thou here upon this side beholdest The boiling stream, that aye diminishes," The Centaur said, "I wish thee to believe		Ruin, and arson, and injurious levies; Whence homicides, and he who smites unjustly, Marauders, and freebooters, the first round Tormenteth all in companies diverse. Man may lay violent hands upon himself	40
130	That on this other more and more declines Its bed, until it reunites itself Where it behoveth tyranny to groan. Justice divine, upon this side, is goading That Attila, who was a scourge on earth, And Pyrrhus, and Sextus; and forever milks		And his own goods; and therefore in the second Round must perforce without avail repent Whoever of your world deprives himself, Who games, and dissipates his property, And weepeth there, where he should jocund be.	45
135	The tears which with the boiling it unseals In Rinier da Corneto and Rinier Pazzo, Who made upon the highways so much war." Then back he turned, and passed again the ford.		Violence can be done the Deity, In heart denying and blaspheming Him, And by disdaining Nature and her bounty. And for this reason doth the smallest round Seal with its signet Sodom and Cahors,	11.50
12.139	11 UPON the margin of a lofty bank Which great rocks broken in a circle made, We came upon a still more cruel throng; And there, by reason of the horrible		And who, disdaining God, speaks from the heart. Fraud, wherewithal is every conscience stung, A man may practise upon him who trusts, And him who doth no confidence imburse.	L2[I] C
L2[I] C	Excess of stench the deep abyss throws out, We drew ourselves aside behind the cover Of a great tomb, whereon I saw a writing, Which said: "Pope Anastasius I hold, Whom out of the right way Photinus drew."		This latter mode, it would appear, dissevers Only the bond of love which Nature makes; Wherefore within the second circle nestle Hypocrisy, flattery, and who deals in magic, Falsification, theft, and simony,	
10 ♦	"Slow it behoveth our descent to be, So that the sense be first a little used To the sad blast, and then we shall not heed it." The Master thus; and unto him I said, "Some compensation find, that the time pass not Idly;" and he: "Thou seest I think of that. My son, upon the inside of these rocks,"	10 (6C)	Panders, and barrators, and the like filth. By the other mode, forgotten is that love Which Nature makes, and what is after added, From which there is a special faith engendered. Hence in the smallest circle, where the point is Of the Universe, upon which Dis is seated,	60 65
15	Began he then to say, "are three small circles, From grade to grade, like those which thou art leaving. They all are full of spirits maledict; But that hereafter sight alone suffice thee, Hear how and wherefore they are in constraint. Of every malice that wins hate in Heaven, Injury is the end; and all such end Either by force or fraud afflicteth others. But because fraud is man's peculiar vice, More it displeases God; and so stand lowest The fraudulent, and greater dole assails them.	10	And I: "My Master, clear enough proceeds Thy reasoning, and full well distinguishes This cavern and the people who possess it. But tell me, those within the fat lagoon, Whom the wind drives, and whom the rain doth beat, And who encounter with such bitter tongues, Wherefore are they inside of the red city Not punished, if God has them in his wrath, And if he has not, wherefore in such fashion?"	70
20	All the first circle of the Violent is;	7	And unto me he said: "Why wanders so Thine intellect from that which it is wont? Or, sooth, thy mind where is it elsewhere looking?	Divine V Comedy P-0~w3,000 800
Divine V Comedy 750	11.28	45	11.78	

15.20 Unto that cross's foot there ran a star
Divine Out of the constellation shining there;
VI Nor was the gem dissevered from its ribbon,
Comedy But down the radiant fillet ran along,
 So that fire seemed it behind alabaster.
25 Thus piteous did Anchises' shade reach forward,
 If any faith our greatest Muse deserve,
 When in Elysium he his son perceived.
 "O sanguis meus, O super infusa
 Gratia Dei, sicut tibi, cui
30 *Bis unquam Coeli janua reclusa?"*
 Thus that effulgence; whence I gave it heed;
 Then round unto my Lady turned my sight,
 And on this side and that was stupefied;
 For in her eyes was burning such a smile
35 That with mine own methought I touched the bottom
 Both of my grace and of my Paradise!
 Then, pleasant to the hearing and the sight,
 The spirit joined to its beginning things
 I understood not, so profound it spake;
40 Nor did it hide itself from me by choice,
 But by necessity; for its conception
 Above the mark of mortals set itself.
 And when the bow of burning sympathy
 Was so far slackened, that its speech descended
L1[O] Towards the mark of our intelligence,
A The first thing that was understood by me
 Was "Benedight be Thou, O Trine and One,
 Who hast unto my seed so courteous been!"
 And it continued: "Hunger long and grateful,
15.50 ♦ Drawn from the reading of the mighty volume
 Wherein is never changed the white nor dark,
 Thou hast appeased, my son, within this light
 In which I speak to thee, by grace of her
 Who to this lofty flight with plumage clothed thee.
55 Thou thinkest that to me thy thought doth pass
 From Him who is the first, as from the unit,
 If that be known, ray out the five and six;
 And therefore who I am thou askest not,
 And why I seem more joyous unto thee
60 Than any other of this gladsome crowd.
 Thou think'st the truth; because the small and great
 Of this existence look into the mirror
 Wherein, before thou think'st, thy thought thou showest.
 But that the sacred love, in which I watch
65 With sight perpetual, and which makes me thirst
 With sweet desire, may better be fulfilled,
 Now let thy voice secure and frank and glad
 Proclaim the wishes, the desire proclaim,
350 15.69 To which my answer is decreed already."

44

1

1

7

46

7

VI

LONGFELLOW

DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY

EPIC

POEM



. O R G

DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

16

13

2L A 14, 13, 15.69

3L B 15.70, 14.121

2L C 14.122, 16, 15

QUICK START

14 [1] 14 [430]

13 [140] 16 [572]

15 [283] 15 [708]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Paradiso 14: 139 13: 142 15: 148 = 429

Inferno 14: 142 16: 136 15: 124 = 402

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:

tri-Canti descend I to VI,

ascend VII to XII.

Inferno tri-Canti descend;

Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;

Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

VI

7

INTERLEAVABLE

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Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;PRINT
2-SIDED:
46 to 55

14 FROM centre unto rim, from rim to centre,
 In a round vase the water moves itself,
 As from without 't is struck or from within.
 Into my mind upon a sudden dropped
 5 What I am saying, at the moment when
 Silent became the glorious life of Thomas,
 Because of the resemblance that was born
 Of his discourse and that of Beatrice,
 Whom, after him, it pleased thus to begin:
 10 ^{^P} 6,000 "This man has need (and does not tell you so,
 Nor with the voice, nor even in his thought)
 Of going to the root of one truth more.
 Declare unto him if the light wherewith
 Blossoms your substance shall remain with you
 15 Eternally the same that it is now;
 And if it do remain, say in what manner,
 After ye are again made visible,
 It can be that it injure not your sight."
 As by a greater gladness urged and drawn
 20 They who are dancing in a ring sometimes
 Uplift their voices and their motions quicken;
 So, at that orison devout and prompt,
 The holy circles a new joy displayed
 In their revolving and their wondrous song.
 25 Whoso lamenteth him that here we die
 L1[I] That we may live above, has never there
 A Seen the refreshment of the eternal rain.
 The One and Two and Three who ever liveth,
 And reigneth ever in Three and Two and One,
 30 Not circumscribed and all things circumscribing,
 ♦ Three several times was chanted by each one
 Among those spirits, with such melody
 That for all merit it were just reward;
 And, in the lustre most divine of all
 35 The lesser ring, I heard a modest voice,
 Such as perhaps the Angel's was to Mary,
 Answer: "As long as the festivity
 Of Paradise shall be, so long our love
 Shall radiate round about us such a vesture.
 40 Its brightness is proportioned to the ardor,
 The ardor to the vision; and the vision
 Equals what grace it has above its worth.
 When, glorious and sanctified, our flesh
 Is reassumed, then shall our persons be
 45 More pleasing by their being all complete;
 For will increase whate'er bestows on us
 Of light gratuitous the Good Supreme,
 Light which enables us to look on Him;
 Therefore the vision must perforce increase,
 Divine VI Comedy
 ☞ 14.50 Increase the ardor which from that is kindled,

45 (27C)

2 (1C)

2

⑦

47

And lead shall this be always to thy feet,
 To make thee, like a weary man, move slowly
 Both to the Yes and No thou seest not;
 115 For very low among the fools is he
 Who affirms without distinction, or denies,
 As well in one as in the other case;
 Because it happens that full often bends
 Current opinion in the false direction,
 And then the feelings bind the intellect. 120
 Far more than uselessly he leaves the shore,
 (Since he returneth not the same he went,)
 Who fishes for the truth, and has no skill;
 And in the world proofs manifest thereof
 Parmenides, Melissus, Brissus are, 125
 And many who went on and knew not whither;
 Thus did Sabellius, Arius, and those fools
 Who have been even as swords unto the Scriptures
 In rendering distorted their straight faces.
 Nor yet shall people be too confident 130
 In judging, even as he is who doth count
 The corn in field or ever it be ripe.
 For I have seen all winter long the thorn
 First show itself intractable and fierce,
 And after bear the rose upon its top; 135
 And I have seen a ship direct and swift
 Run o'er the sea throughout its course entire, L1[II]
 To perish at the harbor's mouth at last. A
 Let not Dame Bertha nor Ser Martin think,
 Seeing one steal, another offering make, 140
 To see them in the arbitrament divine;
 For one may rise, and fall the other may." 13.142
 15 A WILL benign, in which reveals itself
 Ever the love that righteously inspires,
 As in the iniquitous, cupidity,
 Silence imposed upon that dulcet lyre,
 And quieted the consecrated chords, 5
 That Heaven's right hand doth tighten and relax.
 How unto just entreaties shall be deaf
 Those substances, which, to give me desire
 Of praying them, with one accord grew silent?
 'T is well that without end he should lament, 10
 Who for the love of thing that doth not last
 Eternally despoils him of that love!
 As through the pure and tranquil evening air
 There shoots from time to time a sudden fire,
 Moving the eyes that steadfast were before, 15
 And seems to be a star that changeth place,
 Except that in the part where it is kindled
 Nothing is missed, and this endureth little;
 So from the horn that to the right extends 15.19 300

13.112

115

120

125

130

135

L1[II]

A

140

13.142

15

5

10

15

Divine VI Comedy

300

13.62	Downward from act to act becoming such	46 (28C)	Increase the radiance which from this proceeds.	14.51
Divine VI Comedy	That only brief contingencies it makes;		But even as a coal that sends forth flame,	Divine VI Comedy
65	And these contingencies I hold to be		And by its vivid whiteness overpowers it	
	Things generated, which the heaven produces		So that its own appearance it maintains,	55
	By its own motion, with seed and without.		Thus the effulgence that surrounds us now	
	Neither their wax, nor that which tempers it,		Shall be o'erpowered in aspect by the flesh,	
	Remains immutable, and hence beneath		Which still to-day the earth doth cover up;	
70	The ideal signet more and less shines through;		Nor can so great a splendor weary us,	
	Therefore it happens, that the selfsame tree		For strong will be the organs of the body	
	After its kind bears worse and better fruit,		To everything which hath the power to please us."	60
	And ye are born with characters diverse.		So sudden and alert appeared to me	
	If in perfection tempered were the wax,		Both one and the other choir to say Amen,	
	And were the heaven in its supremest virtue,		That well they showed desire for their dead bodies;	
75	The brilliance of the seal would all appear;		Nor sole for them perhaps, but for the mothers,	
	But nature gives it evermore deficient,		The fathers, and the rest who had been dear	65
	In the like manner working as the artist,		Or ever they became eternal flames.	
	Who has the skill of art and hand that trembles.		And lo! all round about of equal brightness	
	If then the fervent Love, the Vision clear,		Arose a lustre over what was there,	
80	Of primal Virtue do dispose and seal,		Like an horizon that is clearing up.	
	Perfection absolute is there acquired.		And as at rise of early eve begin	70
	Thus was of old the earth created worthy		Along the welkin new appearances,	
	Of all and every animal perfection;		So that the sight seems real and unreal,	
	And thus the Virgin was impregnate made;		It seemed to me that new subsistences	
85	So that thine own opinion I commend,		Began there to be seen, and make a circle	
	That human nature never yet has been,		Outside the other two circumferences.	75
L2[O]	Nor will be, what it was in, those two persons.		O very sparkling of the Holy Spirit,	L2[O]
A	Now if no farther forth I should proceed,		How sudden and incandescent it became	A
	'Then in what way was he without a peer?'		Unto mine eyes that vanquished bore it not!	
90	Would be the first beginning of thy words.		But Beatrice so beautiful and smiling	
♦	But, that may well appear what now appears not,		Appeared to me, that with the other sights	80
	Think who he was, and what occasion moved him		That followed not my memory I must leave her.	
	To make request, when it was told him, 'Ask.'	3 (2C)	Then to uplift themselves mine eyes resumed	
	I've not so spoken that thou canst not see		The power, and I beheld myself translated	
95	Clearly he was a king who asked for wisdom,		To higher salvation with my Lady only.	
	That he might be sufficiently a king;		Well was I ware that I was more uplifted	85
	'T was not to know the number in which are		By the enkindled smiling of the star,	
	The motors here above, or if <i>necesse</i>		That seemed to me more ruddy than its wont.	
	With a contingent e'er <i>necesse</i> make,		With all my heart, and in that dialect	
13.100	<i>Non si est dare primum motum esse,</i>	3	Which is the same in all, such holocaust	
	Or if in semicircle can be made		To God I made as the new grace beseemed;	90
	Triangle so that it have no right angle.		And not yet from my bosom was exhausted	
	Whence, if thou notest this and what I said,		The ardor of sacrifice, before I knew	
	A regal prudence is that peerless seeing		This offering was accepted and auspicious;	
105	In which the shaft of my intention strikes.		For with so great a lustre and so red	
	And if on 'rose' thou turnest thy clear eyes,		Splendors appeared to me in twofold rays,	95
	Thou 'lt see that it has reference alone	⑦	I said: "O Helios who dost so adorn them!"	
	To kings who're many, and the good are rare.		Even as distinct with less and greater lights	
	With this distinction take thou what I said,		Glimmers between the two poles of the world	
	And thus it can consist with thy belief		The Galaxy that maketh wise men doubt,	
250	13.111 Of the first father and of our Delight.	48	Thus constellated in the depths of Mars,	14.100 100

14.101	Those rays described the venerable sign That quadrants joining in a circle make. Here doth my memory overcome my genius; For on that cross as levin gleamed forth Christ,	47 (29C)	Round about which the primal wheel revolves, — To have fashioned of themselves two signs in heaven, Like unto that which Minos' daughter made, The moment when she felt the frost of death;	13.12 15
105	So that I cannot find ensample worthy; But he who takes his cross and follows Christ Again will pardon me what I omit, Seeing in that aurora lighten Christ. From horn to horn, and 'twixt the top and base,		And one to have its rays within the other, And both to whirl themselves in such a manner That one should forward go, the other backward; And he will have some shadowing forth of that True constellation and the double dance	20
110	Lights were in motion, brightly scintillating As they together met and passed each other; Thus level and aslant and swift and slow We here behold, renewing still the sight, The particles of bodies long and short,		That circled round the point at which I was; Because it is as much beyond our wont, As swifter than the motion of the Chiana Moveth the heaven that all the rest outspeeds. There sang they neither Bacchus, nor Apollo,	25
115	Across the sunbeam move, wherewith is listed Sometimes the shade, which for their own defence People with cunning and with art contrive. And as a lute and harp, accordant strung With many strings, a dulcet tinkling make		But in the divine nature Persons three, And in one person the divine and human. The singing and the dance fulfilled their measure, And unto us those holy lights gave heed, Growing in happiness from care to care.	30
120	To him by whom the notes are not distinguished, So from the lights that there to me appeared Upgathered through the cross a melody, Which rapt me, not distinguishing the hymn. Well was I ware it was of lofty laud,		Then broke the silence of those saints concordant The light in which the admirable life Of God's own mendicant was told to me, And said: "Now that one straw is trodden out Now that its seed is garnered up already,	35
125	Because there came to me, "Arise and conquer!" L2[I] As unto him who hears and comprehends not. A So much enamored I became therewith, That until then there was not anything That e'er had fettered me with such sweet bonds.		Into that bosom, thou believest, whence Was drawn the rib to form the beauteous cheek Whose taste to all the world is costing dear, And into that which, by the lance transfix'd,	L2[I] A 40
130	Perhaps my word appears somewhat too bold, ♦ Postponing the delight of those fair eyes, Into which gazing my desire has rest; But who bethinks him that the living seals Of every beauty grow in power ascending,	4 (3C)	Before and since, such satisfaction made That it weighs down the balance of all sin, Whate'er of light it has to human nature Been lawful to possess was all infused By the same power that both of them created;	45
135	And that I there had not turned round to those, Can me excuse, if I myself accuse To excuse myself, and see that I speak truly: For here the holy joy is not disclosed,		And hence at what I said above dost wonder, When I narrated that no second had The good which in the fifth light is enclosed. Now ope thine eyes to what I answer thee, And thou shalt see thy creed and my discourse Fit in the truth as centre in a circle.	13.50
14.139	13 Because it grows, ascending, more sincere. L ET him imagine, who would well conceive What now I saw, and let him while I speak Retain the image as a steadfast rock, The fifteen stars, that in their divers regions	4	That which can die, and that which dieth not, Are nothing but the splendor of the idea Which by his love our Lord brings into being; Because that living Light, which from its fount Effulgent flows, so that it disunites not From Him nor from the Love in them intrined, Through its own goodness reunites its rays In nine subsistences, as in a mirror, Itself eternally remaining One.	55
5	The sky enliven with a light so great That it transcends all clusters of the air; Let him the Wain imagine unto which Our vault of heaven sufficeth night and day, So that in turning of its pole it fails not; Let him the mouth imagine of the horn	⑦	Thence it descends to the last potencies,	13.61
Divine VI Comedy	051 13.11 That in the point beginneth of the axis	49		Divine VI Comedy 200

14.72	Are for his breast the fittest ornaments.	48 (30C)	To Beatrice I turned me, and she heard	15.70
Divine VI Comedy	Now follow me, and mind thou do not place		Before I spake, and smiled to me a sign,	Divine VI Comedy
75	As yet thy feet upon the burning sand, But always keep them close unto the wood.” Speaking no word, we came to where there gushes Forth from the wood a little rivulet, Whose redness makes my hair still stand on end. As from the Bulicamē springs the brooklet,		That made the wings of my desire increase; Then in this wise began I: “Love and knowledge, When on you dawned the first Equality, Of the same weight for each of you became;	75
80	The sinful women later share among them, So downward through the sand it went its way. The bottom of it, and both sloping banks, Were made of stone, and the margins at the side; Whence I perceived that there the passage was.		With heat and radiance, they so equal are, That all similitudes are insufficient. But among mortals will and argument, For reason that to you is manifest,	80
85	“In all the rest which I have shown to thee Since we have entered in within the gate Whose threshold unto no one is denied, Nothing has been discovered by thine eyes So notable as is the present river,		Whence I, who mortal am, feel in myself This inequality; so give not thanks, Save in my heart, for this paternal welcome. Truly do I entreat thee, living topaz!	85
90	Which all the little flames above it quenches.” These words were of my Leader; whence I prayed him That he would give me largess of the food, For which he had given me largess of desire. “In the mid-sea there sits a wasted land,”		Set in this precious jewel as a gem, That thou wilt satisfy me with thy name.” “O leaf of mine, in whom I pleasure took E’en while awaiting, I was thine own root!” Such a beginning he in answer made me.	90
95	Said he thereafterward, “whose name is Crete, Under whose king the world of old was chaste. L1[O] B There is a mountain there, that once was glad With waters and with leaves, which was called Ida; Now ’t is deserted, as a thing worn out.		Then said to me: “That one from whom is named Thy race, and who a hundred years and more Has circled round the mount on the first cornice, A son of mine and thy great-grandsire was; Well it behoves thee that the long fatigue Thou shouldst for him make shorter with thy works.	L1[O] B
14.100	Rhea once chose it for the faithful cradle Of her own son; and to conceal him better, ◆ Whene’er he cried, she there had clamors made. A grand old man stands in the mount erect, Who holds his shoulders turned tow’rds Damietta, And looks at Rome as if it were his mirror. His head is fashioned of refined gold, And of pure silver are the arms and breast; Then he is brass as far down as the fork. From that point downward all is chosen iron, Save that the right foot is of kiln-baked clay, And more he stands on that than on the other. Each part, except the gold, is by a fissure Asunder cleft, that dripping is with tears, Which gathered together perforate that cavern.	5 (4C)	From which she taketh still her tierce and nones, Abode in quiet, temperate and chaste. No golden chain she had, nor coronal, Nor ladies shod with sandal shoon, nor girdle That caught the eye more than the person did. Not yet the daughter at her birth struck fear Into the father, for the time and dower Did not o’errun this side or that the measure. No houses had she void of families, Not yet had thither come Sardanapalus To show what in a chamber can be done; Not yet surpassed had Montemalo been By your Uccellatojo, which surpassed Shall in its downfall be as in its rise. Bellincion Berti saw I go begirt With leather and with bone, and from the mirror His dame depart without a painted face; And him of Nerli saw, and him of Vecchio, Contented with their simple suits of buff, And with the spindle and the flax their dames. O fortunate women! and each one was certain Of her own burial-place, and none as yet	15.100
105		5		105
110		5		110
115	From rock to rock they fall into this valley; Acheron, Styx, and Phlegethon they form; Then downward go along this narrow sluice Unto that point where is no more descending. They form Cocytus; what that pool may be Thou shalt behold, so here ’t is not narrated.”	7		VP 4,000 115
055 14.121	And I to him: “If so the present runnel			15.119 400

15.120 For sake of France was in her bed deserted.
One o'er the cradle kept her studious watch,
And in her lullaby the language used
That first delights the fathers and the mothers;
Another, drawing tresses from her distaff,
125 Told o'er among her family the tales
Of Trojans and of Fesole and Rome.
As great a marvel then would have been held
A Lapo Salterello, a Cianghella,
As Cincinnatus or Cornelia now.
130 To such a quiet, such a beautiful
Life of the citizen, to such a safe
Community, and to so sweet an inn,
Did Mary give me, with loud cries invoked,
And in your ancient Baptistery at once
Christian and Cacciaguida I became.
Moronto was my brother, and Eliseo;
From Val di Pado came to me my wife,
And from that place thy surname was derived.
I followed afterward the Emperor Conrad,
140 And he begirt me of his chivalry,
So much I pleased him with my noble deeds.
I followed in his train against that law's
Iniquity, whose people doth usurp
Your just possession, through your Pastor's fault.
L1[I] There by that execrable race was I
B Released from bonds of the fallacious world,
The love of which defileth many souls,

15.148
14

◆

5

10

15

Divine
VI
Comedy

450

14.21

And came from martyrdom unto this peace.”
BECAUSE the charity of my native place
Constrained me, gathered I the scattered leaves,
And gave them back to him, who now was hoarse.
Then came we to the confine, where parted
The second round is from the third, and where
A horrible form of Justice is beheld.
Clearly to manifest these novel things,
I say that we arrived upon a plain,
Which from its bed rejecteth every plant;
The dolorous forest is a garland to it
All round about, as the sad moat to that;
There close upon the edge we stayed our feet.
The soil was of an arid and thick sand,
Not of another fashion made than that
Which by the feet of Cato once was pressed.
Vengeance of God, O how much oughtest thou
By each one to be dreaded, who doth read
That which was manifest unto mine eyes!
Of naked souls beheld I many herds,
Who all were weeping very miserably,
And over them seemed set a law diverse.

49 (31C)	Supine upon the ground some folk were lying; And some were sitting all drawn up together, And others went about continually.	14.22
	Those who were going round were far the more, And those were less who lay down to their torment, But had their tongues more loosed to lamentation. O'er all the sand-waste, with a gradual fall, Were raining down dilated flakes of fire, As of the snow on Alp without a wind.	25 30
	As Alexander, in those torrid parts Of India, beheld upon his host Flames fall unbroken till they reached the ground, Whence he provided with his phalanxes To trample down the soil, because the vapor Better extinguished was while it was single ; Thus was descending the eternal heat, Whereby the sand was set on fire, like tinder Beneath the steel, for doubling of the dole.	35 40
	Without repose forever was the dance Of miserable hands, now there, now here, Shaking away from off them the fresh gleeds. “Master,” began I, “thou who overcomest All things except the demons dire, that issued Against us at the entrance of the gate, Who is that mighty one who seems to heed not The fire, and lieth lowering and disdainful, So that the rain seems not to ripen him?” And he himself, who had become aware That I was questioning my Guide about him, Cried: “Such as I was living, am I, dead! If Jove should weary out his smith, from whom He seized in anger the sharp thunderbolt, Wherewith upon the last day I was smitten, And if he wearied out by turns the others In Mongibello at the swarthy forge, Vociferating, ‘Help, good Vulcan, help!’ Even as he did there at the fight of Phlegra, And shot his bolts at me with all his might, He would not have thereby a joyous vengeance.” Then did my Leader speak with such great force, That I had never heard him speak so loud: “O Capaneus, in that is not extinguished Thine arrogance, thou punished art the more; Not any torment, saving thine own rage, Would be unto thy fury pain complete.” Then he turned round to me with better lip, Saying: “One of the Seven Kings was he Who Thebes besieged, and held, and seems to hold God in disdain, and little seems to prize him; But, as I said to him, his own despites	45 50 55 60 65
6 (5C)		14.50
6		55 60 65
⑦		Divine VI Comedy
51		14.71 500

10 Let him the mouth imagine of the horn
 Divine VI That in the point **beginneth of the axis**
 Comedy Round about which the primal wheel revolves, —
 To have fashioned of themselves two signs in heaven,
 Like unto that which Minos' daughter made,
 15 The moment when she felt the frost of death;
 And one to have its rays **within the other**,
 And **both to whirl themselves** in such a manner
That one should forward go, the other backward;
 And he will have some shadowing forth of that
 20 True constellation and the double dance
 That circled round the point at which I was;
 Because it is as much beyond our wont,
 As swifter than the motion of the Chiana
 Moveth the heaven that all the rest outspeeds.
 25 There sang they neither Bacchus, nor Apollo,
 But in the divine nature Persons three,
 And in one person the divine and human.
 The singing and the dance fulfilled their measure,
 And unto us those holy lights gave heed,
 30 Growing in happiness from care to care.
 Then broke the silence of those saints concordant
 The light in which the admirable life
 Of God's own mendicant was told to me,
 And said: "Now that one straw is trodden out
 L1[O] Now that its seed is garnered up already,
 C Sweet love invites me to thresh out the other.
 Into that bosom, thou believest, whence
 Was drawn the rib to form the beauteous cheek
 Whose taste to all the world is costing dear,
 40 And into that which, by the lance transfixed,
 Before and since, such satisfaction made
 That it weighs down the balance of all sin,
 Whate'er of light it has to human nature
 Been lawful to possess was all infused
 45 By the same power that both of them created;
 And hence at what I said above dost wonder,
 When I narrated that no second had
 The good which in the fifth light is enclosed.
 7 Now ope thine eyes to what I answer thee,
 13.50 And thou shalt see thy creed and my discourse
 Fit in the truth as centre in a circle.
 That which can die, and that which dieth not,
 Are nothing but the splendor of the idea
 Which by his love our Lord brings into being;
 55 Because that living Light, which from its fount
 Effulgent flows, so that it disunites not
 From Him nor from the Love in them intrined,
 Through its own goodness reunites its rays
 13.59 In nine subsistences, as in a mirror,
 Itsself eternally remaining One.

50 Doth take its rise in this way from our world,
 Why only on this verge appears it to us?"
 And he to me: "Thou knowest the place is round,
 And notwithstanding thou hast journeyed far,
 Still to the left descending to the bottom,
 Thou hast not yet through all the circle turned.
 Therefore if something new appear to us,
 It should not bring amazement to thy face."
 And I again: "Master, where shall be found 130
 Lethe and Phlegethon, for of one thou 'rt silent,
 And sayest the other of this rain is made?"
 "In all thy questions truly thou dost please me,"
 Replied he; "but the boiling of the red
 135 Water might well solve one of them thou makest.
 Thou shalt see Lethe, but outside this moat,
 There where the souls repair to lave themselves,
 When sin repented of has been removed."
 Then said he: "It is time now to abandon
 The wood; take heed that thou come after me;
 140 A way the margins make that are not burning,
 And over them all vapors are extinguished." 14.142
 NOW was I where was heard the reverberation 16
 Of water falling into the next round,
 Like to that humming which the beehives make,
 When shadows three together started forth,
 Running, from out a company that passed L1[O]
 Beneath the rain of the sharp martyrdom. C
 Towards us came they, and each one cried out:
 "Stop, thou; for by thy garb to us thou seemest
 To be some one of our depraved city."
 10 Ah me! what wounds I saw upon their limbs,
 Recent and ancient by the flames burnt in!
 It pains me still but to remember it.
 Unto their cries my Teacher paused attentive;
 He turned his face towards me, and "Now wait,
 He said; "to these we should be courteous. 15
 And if it were not for the fire that darts
 The nature of this region, I should say
 7 That haste were more becoming thee than them."
 As soon as we stood still, they recommenced
 The old refrain, and when they overtook us, 20
 Formed of themselves a wheel, all three of them.
 As champions stripped and oiled are wont to do,
 Watching for their advantage and their hold,
 Before they come to blows and thrusts between them,
 Thus, wheeling round, did every one his visage 25
 Direct to me, so that in opposite wise
 His neck and feet continual journey made.
 And, "If the misery of this soft place
 Bring in disdain ourselves and our entreaties," 16.29 009

16.30	Began one, "and our aspect black and blistered, Let the renown of us thy mind incline To tell us who thou art, who thus securely Thy living feet dost move along through Hell. He in whose footprints thou dost see me treading,	51	The old refrain, and when they overtook us, Formed of themselves a wheel, all three of them. As champions stripped and oiled are wont to do, Watching for their advantage and their hold, Before they come to blows and thrusts between them ,	20
35	Naked and skinless though he now may go, Was of a greater rank than thou dost think; He was the grandson of the good Gualdrada; His name was Guidoguerra, and in life Much did he with his wisdom and his sword.		Thus, wheeling round, did every one his visage Direct to me, so that in opposite wise His neck and feet continual journey made . And, "If the misery of this soft place Bring in disdain ourselves and our entreaties,"	25
40	The other, who close by me treads the sand, Tegghiaio Aldobrandi is, whose fame Above there in the world should welcome be. And I, who with them on the cross am placed, Jacopo Rusticucci was; and truly		Began one, "and our aspect black and blistered, Let the renown of us thy mind incline To tell us who thou art, who thus securely Thy living feet dost move along through Hell. He in whose footprints thou dost see me treading,	30
45	My savage wife, more than aught else, doth harm me." Could I have been protected from the fire, Below I should have thrown myself among them, And think the Teacher would have suffered it; But as I should have burned and baked myself,		Naked and skinless though he now may go, Was of a greater rank than thou dost think; He was the grandson of the good Gualdrada; His name was Guidoguerra, and in life Much did he with his wisdom and his sword.	35
16.50	My terror overmastered my good will, Which made me greedy of embracing them. Then I began: "Sorrow and not disdain Did your condition fix within me so, That tardily it wholly is stripped off,		The other, who close by me treads the sand, Tegghiaio Aldobrandi is, whose fame Above there in the world should welcome be. And I, who with them on the cross am placed, Jacopo Rusticucci was; and truly	40
L1[I]	As soon as this my Lord said unto me		My savage wife, more than aught else, doth harm me."	L1[I]
C	Words, on account of which I thought within me That people such as you are were approaching. I of your city am; and evermore Your labors and your honorable names		Could I have been protected from the fire, Below I should have thrown myself among them, And think the Teacher would have suffered it; But as I should have burned and baked myself,	C
60 ♦	I with affection have retraced and heard. I leave the gall, and go for the sweet fruits Promised to me by the veracious Leader; But to the centre first I needs must plunge." "So may the soul for a long while conduct	8	My terror overmastered my good will, Which made me greedy of embracing them. Then I began: "Sorrow and not disdain Did your condition fix within me so, That tardily it wholly is stripped off,	16.50
65	Those limbs of thine," did he make answer then, "And so may thy renown shine after thee, Valor and courtesy, say if they dwell Within our city, as they used to do, Or if they wholly have gone out of it;	8	As soon as this my Lord said unto me Words, on account of which I thought within me That people such as you are were approaching. I of your city am; and evermore Your labors and your honorable names I with affection have retraced and heard.	55
70	For Guglielmo Borsier, who is in torment With us of late, and goes there with his comrades, Doth greatly mortify us with his words." "The new inhabitants and the sudden gains, Pride and extravagance have in thee engendered,		L ET him imagine, who would well conceive What now I saw, and let him while I speak Retain the image as a steadfast rock, The fifteen stars, that in their divers regions The sky enliven with a light so great That it transcends all clusters of the air; Let him the Wain imagine unto which Our vault of heaven sufficeth night and day, So that in turning of its pole it fails not;	16.60 13
75	Florence, so that thou weep'st thereat already!" In this wise I exclaimed with face uplifted; And the three, taking that for my reply, Looked at each other, as one looks at truth.	⑦		5
Divine VI Comedy	650 16.79 "If other times so little it doth cost thee,"	 53		Divine VI Comedy 13.9

15.94	Such handsel is not new unto mine ears;	52	Replied they all, “to satisfy another,	16.80
Divine VI Comedy	Therefore let Fortune turn her wheel around		Happy art thou, thus speaking at thy will!	Divine VI Comedy
	As it may please her, and the churl his mattock.”		Therefore, if thou escape from these dark places,	
	My Master thereupon on his right cheek		And come to rebehold the beauteous stars,	
	Did backward turn himself, and looked at me;		When it shall pleasure thee to say, ‘I was,’	
	Then said: “He listeneth well who noteth it.”		See that thou speak of us unto the people.”	85
15.100	Nor speaking less on that account, I go		Then they broke up the wheel, and in their flight	
	With Ser Brunetto, and I ask who are		It seemed as if their agile legs were wings.	
	His most known and most eminent companions.		Not an Amen could possibly be said	
	And he to me: “To know of some is well;		So rapidly as they had disappeared;	
	Of others it were laudable to be silent,		Wherefore the Master deemed best to depart.	90
105	For short would be the time for so much speech.		I followed him, and little had we gone,	
	Know then, in sum, that all of them were clerks,		Before the sound of water was so near us,	
	And men of letters great and of great fame,		That speaking we should hardly have been heard.	
	In the world tainted with the selfsame sin.		Even as that stream which holdeth its own course	
	Priscian goes yonder with that wretched crowd,		The first from Monte Veso tow’rds the East,	95
110	And Francis of Accorso; and thou hadst seen there,		Upon the left-hand slope of Apennine,	
	If thou hadst had a hankering for such scurf,		Which is above called Acquacheta, ere	
	That one, who by the Servant of the Servants		It down descendeth into its low bed,	
	From Arno was transferred to Bacchiglione,		And at Forlì is vacant of that name,	
	Where he has left his sin-excited nerves.		Reverberates there above San Benedetto	16.100
115	More would I say, but coming and discoursing		From Alps, by falling at a single leap,	
	Can be no longer; for that I behold		Where for a thousand there were room enough;	
	New smoke uprising yonder from the sand.		Thus downward from a bank precipitate,	
	A people comes with whom I may not be;		We found resounding that dark-tinted water,	
L2[O]	Commended unto thee be my Tesoro,		So that it soon the ear would have offended.	L2[O]
C	In which I still live, and no more I ask.”		I had a cord around about me girt,	C
	Then he turned round, and seemed to be of those		And therewithal I whilom had designed	
	Who at Verona run for the Green Mantle		To take the panther with the painted skin.	
	Across the plain; and seemed to be among them		After I this had all from me unloosed,	
15.124 ♦	The one who wins, and not the one who loses.		As my Conductor had commanded me,	110
16	NOW was I where was heard the reverberation	9	I reached it to him, gathered up and coiled,	
	Of water falling into the next round,		Whereat he turned himself to the right side,	
	Like to that humming which the beehives make,		And at a little distance from the verge,	
	When shadows three together started forth,		He cast it down into that deep abyss.	
5	Running, from out a company that passed		“It must needs be some novelty respond,”	115
	Beneath the rain of the sharp martyrdom.		I said within myself, “to the new signal	
	Towards us came they, and each one cried out:		The Master with his eye is following so.”	
	“Stop, thou; for by thy garb to us thou seemest	9	Ah me! how very cautious men should be	
	To be some one of our depraved city.”		With those who not alone behold the act,	
10	Ah me! what wounds I saw upon their limbs,		But with their wisdom look into the thoughts!	120
	Recent and ancient by the flames burnt in!		He said to me: “Soon there will upward come	
	It pains me still but to remember it.		What I await; and what thy thought is dreaming	
	Unto their cries my Teacher paused attentive;		Must soon reveal itself unto thy sight.”	
	He turned his face towards me, and “Now wait,		Aye to that truth which has the face of falsehood,	
15	He said; “to these we should be courteous.		A man should close his lips as far as may be,	125
	And if it were not for the fire that darts	⑦	Because without his fault it causes shame;	
	The nature of this region, I should say		But here I can not; and, Reader, by the notes	
	That haste were more becoming thee than them.”		Of this my Comedy to thee I swear,	
831 16.19	As soon as we stood still, they recommenced	54	So may they not be void of lasting favor,	16.129 700

16.130	Athwart that dense and darksome atmosphere I saw a figure swimming upward come, Marvellous unto every steadfast heart, Even as he returns who goeth down Sometimes to clear an anchor, which has grappled Reef, or aught else that in the sea is hidden,	53 (32C)	Level to walk with him; but my head bowed I held as one who goeth reverently. And he began: "What fortune or what fate Before the last day leadeth thee down here? And who is this that showeth thee the way?" "Up there above us in the life serene,"	15.44
16.136	Who upward stretches, and draws in his feet.		I answered him, "I lost me in a valley,	15.50
15	N OW bears us onward one of the hard margins, And so the brooklet's mist o'ershadows it, From fire it saves the water and the dikes. Even as the Flemings, 'twixt Cadsand and Bruges, Fearing the flood that tow'rd them hurls itself, Their bulwarks build to put the sea to flight; And as the Paduans along the Brenta, To guard their villas and their villages, Or ever Chiarentana feel the heat; In such similitude had those been made, Albeit not so lofty nor so thick, Whoever he might be, the master made them. Now were we from the forest so remote, I could not have discovered where it was, Even if backward I had turned myself, When we a company of souls encountered, Who came beside the dike, and every one Gazed at us, as at evening we are wont To eye each other under a new moon,		Or ever yet my age had been completed. But yestermorn I turned my back upon it; This one appeared to me, returning thither, And homeward leadeth me along this road." And he to me: "If thou thy star do follow, Thou canst not fail thee of a glorious port, If well I judged in the life beautiful. And if I had not died so prematurely, Seeing Heaven thus benignant unto thee, I would have given thee comfort in the work. But that ungrateful and malignant people, Which of old time from Fesole descended, And smacks still of the mountain and the granite, Will make itself, for thy good deeds, thy foe; And it is right; for among crabbed sorbs It ill befits the sweet fig to bear fruit. Old rumor in the world proclaims them blind; A people avaricious, envious, proud, Take heed that of their customs thou do cleanse thee.	55
L2[I]	To eye each other under a new moon,		Thy fortune so much honor doth reserve thee,	L2[I]
C 20	And so towards us sharpened they their brows As an old tailor at the needle's eye. Thus scrutinized by such a family, By some one I was recognized, who seized My garment's hem, and cried out, "What a marvel!"		One party and the other shall be hungry For thee; but far from goat shall be the grass. Their litter let the beasts of Fesole Make of themselves, nor let them touch the plant, If any still upon their dunghill rise,	70 C
25	And I, when he stretched forth his arm to me, On his baked aspect fastened so mine eyes, That the scorched countenance prevented not His recognition by my intellect; And bowing down my face unto his own, I made reply, "Are you here, Ser Brunetto?"	10 (6C)	The nest of such great malice it became." "If my entreaty wholly were fulfilled," Replied I to him, "not yet would you be In banishment from human nature placed; For in my mind is fixed, and touches now My heart the dear and good paternal image Of you, when in the world from hour to hour You taught me how a man becomes eternal;	75
30	And he: "May 't not displease thee, O my son, If a brief space with thee Brunetto Latini Backward return and let the trail go on." I said to him: "With all my power I ask it; And if you wish me to sit down with you, I will, if he please, for I go with him." "O son," he said, "whoever of this herd A moment stops, lies then a hundred years, Nor fans himself when smiteth him the fire. Therefore go on; I at thy skirts will come, And afterward will I rejoin my band, Which goes lamenting its eternal doom."	10	And how much I am grateful, while I live Behoves that in my language be discerned. What you narrate of my career I write, And keep it to be glossed with other text By a Lady who can do it, if I reach her.	80
35	I did not dare to go down from the road		This much will I have manifest to you; Provided that my conscience do not chide me, For whatsoever Fortune I am ready.	85
Divine 40 VI Comedy		⑦	90 Divine VI Comedy	800
750 15.43		55	15.93	

19.29 To move upon the outer surface only,
Divine VII Comedy So likewise was it there from heel to point.
“Master, who is that one who writhes himself,
More than his other comrades quivering,”
I said, “and whom a redder flame is sucking?”
And he to me: “If thou wilt have me bear thee
35 Down there along that bank which lowest lies,
From him thou ’lt know his errors and himself.”
And I: “What pleases thee, to me is pleasing;
Thou art my Lord, and knowest that I depart not
40 From thy desire, and knowest what is not spoken.”
Straightway upon the fourth dike we arrived;
We turned, and on the left-hand side descended
Down to the bottom full of holes and narrow.
And the good Master yet from off his haunch
Deposed me not, till to the hole he brought me
45 Of him who so lamented with his shanks.
“Whoe’er thou art, that standest upside down,
O doleful soul, implanted like a stake,”
To say began I, “if thou canst, speak out.”
I stood even as the friar who is confessing
19.50 The false assassin, who, when he is fixed,
Recalls him, so that death may be delayed.
And he cried out: “Dost thou stand there already,
Dost thou stand there already, Boniface?
L1[O] By many years the record lied to me.
A Art thou so early satiate with that wealth,
For which thou didst not fear to take by fraud
The beautiful Lady, and then work her woe?”
Such I became, as people are who stand,
Not comprehending what is answered them,
60 As if bemocked, and know not how to answer.
Then said Virgilius: “Say to him straightway,
‘I am not he, I am not he thou thinkest.’”
And I replied as was imposed on me.
Whereat the spirit writhed with both his feet,
65 ♦ Then, sighing, with a voice of lamentation
Said to me: “Then what wantest thou of me?
If who I am thou carest so much to know,
That thou on that account hast crossed the bank,
Know that I vested was with the great mantle;
70 And truly was I son of the She-bear,
So eager to advance the cubs, that wealth
Above, and here myself, I pocketed.
Beneath my head the others are dragged down
Who have preceded me in simony,
75 Flattened along the fissure of the rock.
Below there I shall likewise fall, whenever
That one shall come who I believed thou wast,
19.78 What time the sudden question I proposed.

56

1

1

7

56

7

VII

LONGFELLOW

DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY

EPIC

POEM



. O R G

DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

17

17

2L A 18, 17, 19.78

3L B 19.79, 18, 17.9

2L C 17.10, 16

QUICK START

18	[1]	18	[406]
17	[137]	17	[542]
19	[273]	16	[684]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Inferno	18: 136	17: 136	19: 133 = 405
Paradiso	18: 136	17: 142	16: 154 = 432

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti descend I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.Inferno tri-Canti descend;
Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;
Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

VII

7

INTERLEAVABLE

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EPICPOEM.ORG 837 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;PRINT
2-SIDED:
56 to 65

18 **T**HERE is a place in Hell called Malebolge,
 Wholly of stone and of an iron color,
 As is the circle that around it turns.
 Right in the middle of the field malign
 5 There yawns a well exceeding wide and deep,
 Of which its place the structure will recount.
 Round, then, is that enclosure which remains
 Between the well and foot of the high, hard bank,
 And has distinct in valleys ten its bottom.
 10 As where for the protection of the walls
 Many and many moats surround the castles,
 The part in which they are a figure forms,
 Just such an image those presented there;
 And as about such strongholds from their gates
 15 Unto the outer bank are little bridges,
 So from the precipice's base did crags
 Project, which intersected dikes and moats,
 Unto the well that truncates and collects them.
 Within this place, down shaken from the back
 20 Of Geryon, we found us; and the Poet
 Held to the left, and I moved on behind.
 Upon my right hand I beheld new anguish,
 New torments, and new wielders of the lash,
 Wherewith the foremost Bolgia was replete.
 25 Down at the bottom were the sinners naked;
L1[I] This side the middle came they facing us,
 A Beyond it, with us, but with greater steps;
 Even as the Romans, for the mighty host,
 The year of Jubilee, upon the bridge,
 30 Have chosen a mode to pass the people over;
 For all upon one side towards the Castle
 Their faces have, and go unto St. Peter's;
 On the other side they go towards the Mountain.
 This side and that, along the livid stone
 35 Beheld I horned demons with great scourges,
 Who cruelly were beating them behind.
 ♦ Ah me! how they did make them lift their legs
 At the first blows! and sooth not any one
 The second waited for, nor for the third.
 40 While I was going on, mine eyes by one
 Encountered were; and straight I said: "Already
 With sight of this one I am not unfed."
 Therefore I stayed my feet to make him out,
 And with me the sweet Guide came to a stand,
 45 And to my going somewhat back assented;
 And he, the scourged one, thought to hide himself,
 Lowering his face, but little it availed him;
 For said I: "Thou that castest down thine eyes
 If false are not the features which thou bearest,
 50 18.50 Thou art Venedico Caccianimico;

57 (33C)

Onward he goeth, swimming slowly, slowly; 17.115
 Wheels and descends, but I perceive it only
 By wind upon my face and from below.
 I heard already on the right the whirlpool
 Making a horrible crashing under us;
 Whence I thrust out my head with eyes cast downward. 120
 Then was I still more fearful of the abyss;
 Because I fires beheld, and heard laments,
 Whereat I, trembling, all the closer cling.
 I saw then, for before I had not seen it,
 The turning and descending, by great horrors 125
 That were approaching upon divers sides.
 As falcon who has long been on the wing,
 Who, without seeing either lure or bird,
 Maketh the falconer say, "Ah me, thou stoopest,"
 Descendeth weary, whence he started swiftly, 130
 Thorough a hundred circles, and alights
 Far from his master, sullen and disdainful;
 Even thus did Geryon place us on the bottom,
 Close to the bases of the rough-hewn rock,
 And being disencumbered of our persons,
 He sped away as arrow from the string. 17.136
 ○ SIMON MAGUS, O forlorn disciples, 19
 Ye who the things of God, which ought to be
 The brides of holiness, rapaciously
 For silver and for gold do prostitute, L1[I]
 Now it behoves for you the trumpet sound, A
 Because in this third Bolgia ye abide.
 We had already on the following tomb
 Ascended to that portion of the crag
 Which o'er the middle of the moat hangs plumb.
 Wisdom supreme, O how great art thou showest 10
 In heaven, in earth, and in the evil world,
 And with what justice doth thy power distribute!
 I saw upon the sides and on the bottom
 The livid stone with perforations filled,
 All of one size, and every one was round. 15
 To me less ample seemed they not, nor greater
 Than those that in my beautiful Saint John
 Are fashioned for the place of the baptizers,
 And one of which, not many years ago,
 I broke for some one, who was drowning in it; 20
 Be this a seal all men to undeceive.
 Out of the mouth of each one there protruded
 The feet of a transgressor, and the legs
 Up to the calf, the rest within remained.
 In all of them the soles were both on fire;
 Wherefore the joints so violently quivered, Divine
 They would have snapped asunder withes and bands. VII
 Even as the flame of unctuous things is wont 19.28 Comedy 300

2 (1C)

2

⑦

57

17.65	Emblazoned had his little pouch of white,	58 (34C)	But what doth bring thee to such pungent sauces?"	18.51
Divine VII Comedy	Said unto me: "What dost thou in this moat?		And he to me: "Unwillingly I tell it;	Divine VII Comedy
	Now get thee gone; and since thou 'rt still alive,		But forces me thine utterance distinct,	
	Know that a neighbor of mine, Vitaliano,		Which makes me recollect the ancient world.	
	Will have his seat here on my left-hand side.		I was the one who the fair Ghisola	55
70	A Paduan am I with these Florentines;		Induced to grant the wishes of the Marquis,	
	Full many a time they thunder in mine ears,		Howe'er the shameless story may be told.	
	Exclaiming, 'Come the sovereign cavalier,		Not the sole Bolognese am I who weeps here;	
	He who shall bring the satchel with three goats'";		Nay, rather is this place so full of them,	
	Then twisted he his mouth, and forth he thrust		That not so many tongues to-day are taught	60
75	His tongue, like to an ox that licks its nose.		'Twixt Reno and Savena to say <i>sipa</i> ;	
	And fearing lest my longer stay might vex		And if thereof thou wishest pledge or proof,	
	Him who had warned me not to tarry long,		Bring to thy mind our avaricious heart."	
	Backward I turned me from those weary souls.		While speaking in this manner, with his scourge	
	I found my Guide, who had already mounted		A demon smote him, and said: "Get thee gone,	65
80	Upon the back of that wild animal,		Pander, there are no women here for coin."	
	And said to me: "Now be both strong and bold.		I joined myself again unto mine Escort;	
	Now we descend by stairways such as these;		Thereafterward with footsteps few we came	
	Mount thou in front, for I will be midway,		To where a crag projected from the bank.	
	So that the tail may have no power to harm thee."		This very easily did we ascend,	70
85	Such as he is who has so near the ague		And turning to the right along its ridge,	
	Of quartan that his nails are blue already,		From those eternal circles we departed.	
	And trembles all, but looking at the shade;		When we were there, where it is hollowed out	
	Even such became I at those proffered words;		Beneath, to give a passage to the scourged,	
	But shame in me his menaces produced,		The Guide said: "Wait, and see that on thee strike	75
L2[O]	Which maketh servant strong before good master.		The vision of those others evil-born,	L2[O]
A	I seated me upon those monstrous shoulders;		Of whom thou hast not yet beheld the faces,	A
	I wished to say, and yet the voice came not		Because together with us they have gone."	
	As I believed, "Take heed that thou embrace me."		From the old bridge we looked upon the train	
	But he, who other times had rescued me		Which tow'rd us came upon the other border,	80
95	In other peril, soon as I had mounted,	3 (2C)	And which the scourges in like manner smite.	
	Within his arms encircled and sustained me,		And the good Master, without my inquiring,	
	And said: "Now, Geryon, bestir thyself;		Said to me: "See that tall one who is coming,	
	The circles large, and the descent be little;		And for his pain seems not to shed a tear;	
	Think of the novel burden which thou hast."		Still what a royal aspect he retains!	85
17.100	Even as the little vessel shoves from shore,		That Jason is, who by his heart and cunning	
♦	Backward, still backward, so he thence withdrew;		The Colchians of the Ram made destitute.	
	And when he wholly felt himself afloat,	3	He by the isle of Lemnos passed along	
	There where his breast had been he turned his tail,		After the daring women pitiless	
	And that extended like an eel he moved,		Had unto death devoted all their males.	90
105	And with his paws drew to himself the air.		There with his tokens and with ornate words	
	A greater fear I do not think there was		Did he deceive Hypsipyle, the maiden	
	What time abandoned Phaeton the reins,		Who first, herself, had all the rest deceived.	
	Whereby the heavens, as still appears, were scorched;		There did he leave her pregnant and forlorn;	
	Nor when the wretched Icarus his flanks		Such sin unto such punishment condemns him,	95
110	Felt stripped of feathers by the melting wax,	⑦	And also for Medea is vengeance done.	
	His father crying, "An ill way thou takest!"		With him go those who in such wise deceive;	
	Than was my own, when I perceived myself		And this sufficient be of the first valley	
	On all sides in the air, and saw extinguished		To know, and those that in its jaws it holds."	
250	17.114 The sight of everything but of the monster.	58	We were already where the narrow path	18.100 100

18.101	Crosses athwart the second dike, and forms Of that a buttress for another arch. Thence we heard people, who are making moan In the next Bolgia, snorting with their muzzles, 105 And with their palms beating upon themselves. The margins were encrusted with a mould By exhalation from below, that sticks there, And with the eyes and nostrils wages war. The bottom is so deep, no place suffices 110 To give us sight of it, without ascending The arch's back, where most the crag impends. Thither we came, and thence down in the moat I saw a people smothered in a filth That out of human privies seemed to flow; 115 And whilst below there with mine eye I search, I saw one with his head so foul with ordure, It was not clear if he were clerk or layman. He screamed to me: "Wherefore art thou so eager To look at me more than the other foul ones?" 120 And I to him: "Because, if I remember, I have already seen thee with dry hair, And thou 'rt Alessio Interminei of Lucca; Therefore I eye thee more than all the others." And he thereon, belaboring his pumpkin: 125 "The flatteries have submerged me here below, L2[I] Wherewith my tongue was never surfeited." A Then said to me the Guide: "See that thou thrust Thy visage somewhat farther in advance, v P-0~w4,000 That with thine eyes thou well the face attain 130 Of that uncleanly and dishevelled drab, Who there doth scratch herself with filthy nails, And crouches now, and now on foot is standing. Thais the harlot is it, who replied Unto her paramour, when he said, 'Have I Great gratitude from thee?' — 'Nay, marvellous'; 18.136 And herewith let our sight be satisfied." ♦ 17 ‡ 66 BEHOLD the monster with the pointed tail, Who cleaves the hills, and breaketh walls and weapons, Behold him who infecteth all the world." 4 Thus unto me my Guide began to say, And beckoned him that he should come to shore, Near to the confine of the trodden marble; And that uncleanly image of deceit Came up and thrust ashore its head and bust, But on the border did not drag its tail. 10 The face was as the face of a just man, Its semblance outwardly was so benign, And of a serpent all the trunk beside. Two paws it had, hairy unto the armpits; 150 17.14 The back, and breast, and both the sides it had	59 (35C)	Depicted o'er with nooses and with shields. With colors more, groundwork or broidery Never in cloth did Tartars make nor Turks, Nor were such tissues by Arachne laid. As sometimes wherries lie upon the shore, That part are in the water, part on land; 20 And as among the guzzling Germans there, The beaver plants himself to wage his war; So that vile monster lay upon the border, Which is of stone, and shutteth in the sand. His tail was wholly quivering in the void, 25 Contorting upwards the envenomed fork, That in the guise of scorpion armed its point. The Guide said: "Now perforce must turn aside Our way a little, even to that beast Malevolent, that yonder coucheth him." 30 We therefore on the right-hand side descended, And made ten steps upon the outer verge, Completely to avoid the sand and flame; And after we are come to him, I see A little farther off upon the sand 35 A people sitting near the hollow place. Then said to me the Master: "So that full Experience of this round thou bear away, Now go and see what their condition is. There let thy conversation be concise; L2[I] Till thou returnest I will speak with him, A That he concede to us his stalwart shoulders." Thus farther still upon the outermost ^ P 5,000 Head of that seventh circle all alone 45 I went, where sat the melancholy folk. Out of their eyes was gushing forth their woe; This way, that way, they helped them with their hands Now from the flames and now from the hot soil. Not otherwise in summer do the dogs, Now with the foot, now with the muzzle, when 17.50 By fleas, or flies, or gadflies, they are bitten. When I had turned mine eyes upon the faces Of some, on whom the dolorous fire is falling, Not one of them I knew; but I perceived 55 That from the neck of each there hung a pouch, Which certain color had, and certain blazon; And thereupon it seems their eyes are feeding. And as I gazing round me come among them, Upon a yellow pouch I azure saw That had the face and posture of a lion. Proceeding then the current of my sight, Another of them saw I, red as blood, Display a goose more white than butter is. And one, who with an azure sow and gravid 17.64 200
Divine VII Comedy	59	Divine VII Comedy	

18.96	Seemed to be silver there with gold inlaid.	60 (36C)	But longer I my feet already toast,	19.79
Divine VII Comedy	And other lights I saw descend where was		And here have been in this way upside down.	Divine VII Comedy
18.100	The summit of the M, and pause there singing		Than he will planted stay with reddened feet;	
	The good, I think, that draws them to itself.		For after him shall come of fouler deed	
	Then, as in striking upon burning logs		From tow'rds the west a Pastor without law,	
	Upward there fly innumerable sparks,		Such as befits to cover him and me.	
	Whence fools are wont to look for auguries,		New Jason will he be, of whom we read	85
	More than a thousand lights seemed thence to rise,		In Maccabees; and as his king was pliant,	
	And to ascend, some more, and others less,		So he who governs France shall be to this one."	
105	Even as the Sun that lights them had allotted;		I do not know if I were here too bold,	
	And, each one being quiet in its place,		That him I answered only in this metre:	
	The head and neck beheld I of an eagle		"I pray thee tell me now how great a treasure	90
	Delineated by that inlaid fire.		Our Lord demanded of Saint Peter first,	
	He who there paints has none to be his guide;		Before he put the keys into his keeping?	
110	But Himself guides; and is from Him remembered		Truly he nothing asked but 'Follow me.'	
	That virtue which is form unto the nest.		Nor Peter nor the rest asked of Matthias	
	The other beatitude, that contented seemed		Silver or gold, when he by lot was chosen	95
	At first to bloom a lily on the M,		Unto the place the guilty soul had lost.	
	By a slight motion followed out the imprint.		Therefore stay here, for thou art justly punished,	
115	O gentle star! what and how many gems		And keep safe guard o'er the ill-gotten money,	
	Did demonstrate to me, that all our justice		Which caused thee to be valiant against Charles.	
	Effect is of that heaven which thou ingemmost!		And were it not that still forbids it me	19.100
	Wherefore I pray the Mind, in which begin		The reverence for the keys superlative	
	Thy motion and thy virtue, to regard		Thou hadst in keeping in the gladsome life,	
120	Whence comes the smoke that vitiates thy rays;		I would make use of words more grievous still;	
L1[O]	So that a second time it now be wroth		Because your avarice afflicts the world,	L1[O]
B	With buying and with selling in the temple		Trampling the good and lifting the depraved.	B
	Whose walls were built with signs and martyrdoms!		The Evangelist you Pastors had in mind,	
	O soldiery of heaven, whom I contemplate,		When she who sitteth upon many waters	
125	Implore for those who are upon the earth		To fornicate with kings by him was seen;	
	All gone astray after the bad example!		The same who with the seven heads was born,	
	Once 't was the custom to make war with swords;	5 (4C)	And power and strength from the ten horns received,	110
	But now 't is made by taking here and there		So long as virtue to her spouse was pleasing.	
	The bread the pitying Father shuts from none.		Ye have made yourselves a god of gold and silver;	
130	Yet thou, who writest but to cancel, think		And from the idolater how differ ye,	
	That Peter and that Paul, who for this vineyard		Save that he one, and ye a hundred worship?	
♦	Which thou art spoiling died, are still alive!		Ah, Constantine! of how much ill was mother,	115
	Well canst thou say: "So steadfast my desire		Not thy conversion, but that marriage dower	
	Is unto him who willed to live alone,	5	Which the first wealthy Father took from thee!"	
	And for a dance was led to martyrdom,		And while I sang to him such notes as these,	
18.136	That I know not the Fisherman nor Paul."		Either that anger or that conscience stung him,	
17	AS came to Clymene, to be made certain		He struggled violently with both his feet.	120
	Of that which he had heard against himself,		I think in sooth that it my Leader pleased,	
	He who makes fathers chary still to children,		With such contented lip he listened ever	
	Even such was I, and such was I perceived		Unto the sound of the true words expressed.	
5	By Beatrice and by the holy light		Therefore with both his arms he took me up,	125
	That first on my account had changed its place.	⑦	And when he had me all upon his breast,	
	Therefore my Lady said to me: "Send forth		Remounted by the way where he descended.	
	The flame of thy desire, so that it issue		Nor did he tire to have me clasped to him;	
055	Imprinted well with the internal stamp;		But bore me to the summit of the arch	400
17.9		60	19.128	

✓ P-O-W 4000 Which from the fourth dike to the fifth is passage.

19.130 There tenderly he laid his burden down,
Tenderly on the crag uneven and steep,
That would have been hard passage for the goats:
19.133 Thence was unveiled to me another valley.

18 NOW was alone rejoicing in its word
That soul beatified, and I was tasting
My own, the bitter tempering with the sweet,
‡ And the Lady who to God was leading me
5 Said: "Change thy thought; consider that I am
Near unto Him who every wrong disburdens."
Unto the loving accents of my comfort
I turned me round, and then what love I saw
Within those holy eyes I here relinquish;
10 Not only that my language I distrust,
But that my mind cannot return so far
Above itself, unless another guide it.

Thus much upon that point can I repeat,
That, her again beholding, my affection
15 From every other longing was released.
While the eternal pleasure, which direct
Rayed upon Beatrice, from her fair face
Contented me with its reflected aspect,
Conquering me with the radiance of a smile,
20 She said to me, "Turn thee about and listen;
L1[I] Not in mine eyes alone is Paradise."

B Even as sometimes here do we behold
The affection in the look, if it be such
That all the soul is wrapt away by it,
25 So, by the flaming of the effulgence holy
To which I turned, I recognized therein
The wish of speaking to me somewhat farther.
And it began: "In this fifth resting-place
Upon the tree that liveth by its summit,
30 And aye bears fruit, and never loses leaf,
Are blessed spirits that below, ere yet

♦ They came to Heaven, were of such great renown
That every Muse therewith would affluent be.
Therefore look thou upon the cross's horns;
35 He whom I now shall name will there enact
What doth within a cloud its own swift fire."

I saw athwart the Cross a splendor drawn
By naming Joshua, (even as he did it,)
Nor noted I the word before the deed;
40 And at the name of the great Maccabee
I saw another move itself revolving,
And gladness was the whip unto that top.
Likewise for Charlemagne and for Orlando,
Two of them my regard attentive followed
450 18.45 As followeth the eye its falcon flying.

Divine
VII
Comedy

61 (37C)

William thereafterward, and Renouard, 18.46
And the Duke Godfrey, did attract my sight
Along upon that Cross, and Robert Guiscard.
Then, moved and mingled with the other lights,
The soul that had addressed me showed how great 18.50
An artist 't was among the heavenly singers.

To my right side I turned myself around,
My duty to behold in Beatrice
Either by words or gesture signified;
And so translucent I beheld her eyes, 55
So full of pleasure, that her countenance

Surpassed its other and its latest wont.
And as, by feeling greater delectation,
A man in doing good from day to day
Becomes aware his virtue is increasing, 60
So I became aware that my gyration

With heaven together had increased its arc,
That miracle beholding more adorned.
And such as is the change, in little lapse
Of time, in a pale woman, when her face 65
Is from the load of bashfulness unladen,

Such was it in mine eyes, when I had turned,
Caused by the whiteness of the temperate star,
The sixth, which to itself had gathered me.
Within that Jovial torch did I behold 70
The sparkling of the love which was therein
L1[I] Delineate our language to mine eyes. B

And even as birds uprisen from the shore,
As in congratulation o'er their food,
Make squadrons of themselves, now round, now long, 75
So from within those lights the holy creatures

Sang flying to and fro, and in their figures
Made of themselves now D, now I, now L.
First singing they to their own music moved;
Then one becoming of these characters, 80
A little while they rested and were silent.

O divine Pegasea, thou who genius
Dost glorious make, and render it long-lived,
And this through thee the cities and the kingdoms,
Illume me with thyself, that I may bring 85
Their figures out as I have them conceived!

Apparent be thy power in these brief verses!
Themselves then they displayed in five times seven
Vowels and consonants; and I observed
The parts as they seemed spoken unto me. 90

Diligite justitiam, these were
First verb and noun of all that was depicted;
Qui judicatis terram were the last.
Thereafter in the M of the fifth word
Remained they so arranged, that Jupiter 18.95

Divine
VII
Comedy

500

7

61

10

Therefore my Lady said to me: "Send forth
The flame of thy desire, so that it issue
Imprinted well with the internal stamp;
Not that our knowledge may be greater made
By speech of thine, but to accustom thee
To tell thy thirst, that we may give thee drink."

15

"O my beloved tree, (that so dost lift thee,
That even as minds terrestrial perceive
No triangle containeth two obtuse,
So thou beholdest the contingent things
Ere in themselves they are, fixing thine eyes
Upon the point in which all times are present,) While I was with Virgilius conjoined

20

Upon the mountain that the souls doth heal,
And when descending into the dead world,
Were spoken to me of my future life

25

Some grievous words; although I feel myself
In sooth foursquare against the blows of chance.
On this account my wish would be content
To hear what fortune is approaching me,
Because foreseen an arrow comes more slowly."

30

Thus did I say unto that selfsame light
That unto me had spoken before; and even
As Beatrice willed was my own will confessed.
Not in vague phrase, in which the foolish folk

L1[O]

C

Ensnared themselves of old, ere yet was slain
The Lamb of God who taketh sins away,
But with clear words and unambiguous

35

Language responded that paternal love,
Hid and revealed by its own proper smile:
"Contingency, that outside of the volume
Of your materiality extends not,
Is all depicted in the eternal aspect.

40

Necessity however thence it takes not,
Except as from the eye, in which 't is mirrored,
A ship that with the current down descends.
From thence, e'en as there cometh to the ear
Sweet harmony from an organ, comes in sight

45

To me the time that is preparing for thee.
As forth from Athens went Hippolytus,
By reason of his step-dame false and cruel,
So thou from Florence must perforce depart.
Already this is willed, and this is sought for;

17.50

And soon it shall be done by him who thinks it,
Where every day the Christ is bought and sold.
The blame shall follow the offended party
In outcry as is usual; but the vengeance
Shall witness to the truth that doth dispense it.
Thou shalt abandon everything beloved
Most tenderly, and this the arrow is

17.56

Which first the bow of banishment shoots forth.

62

Not that our knowledge may be greater made
By speech of thine, but to accustom thee
To tell thy thirst, that we may give thee drink."

P MID

"O my beloved tree, (that so dost lift thee, FROM START NO B B

That even as minds terrestrial perceive
No triangle containeth two obtuse,
So thou beholdest the contingent things
Ere in themselves they are, fixing thine eyes
Upon the point in which all times are present,) While I was with Virgilius conjoined

15

Upon the mountain that the souls doth heal,
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20

Some grievous words; although I feel myself
In sooth foursquare against the blows of chance.

vP 5,000

On this account my wish would be content
To hear what fortune is approaching me,
Because foreseen an arrow comes more slowly."

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That unto me had spoken before; and even
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"Contingency, that outside of the volume
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Except as from the eye, in which 't is mirrored,
A ship that with the current down descends.

7

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Sweet harmony from an organ, comes in sight
To me the time that is preparing for thee.

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By reason of his step-dame false and cruel,
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And soon it shall be done by him who thinks it,
Where every day the Christ is bought and sold.
The blame shall follow the offended party

17.50

In outcry as is usual; but the vengeance
Shall witness to the truth that doth dispense it.
Thou shalt abandon everything beloved
Most tenderly, and this the arrow is

55

Which first the bow of banishment shoots forth.
Thou shalt have proof how savoreth of salt
The bread of others, and how hard a road

17.59

009

62

(7)

17.60	The going down and up another's stairs. And that which most shall weigh upon thy shoulders Will be the bad and foolish company With which into this valley thou shalt fall; For all ingrate, all mad and impious	63	The back, and breast, and both the sides it had Depicted o'er with nooses and with shields.	15
65	Will they become against thee; but soon after They, and not thou, shall have the forehead scarlet. Of their bestiality their own proceedings Shall furnish proof; so 't will be well for thee A party to have made thee by thyself.		As sometimes wherries lie upon the shore, That part are in the water, part on land;	20
70	Thine earliest refuge and thine earliest inn Shall be the mighty Lombard's courtesy, Who on the Ladder bears the holy bird, Who such benign regard shall have for thee That 'twixt you twain, in doing and in asking,		And as among the guzzling Germans there, The beaver plants himself to wage his war; So that vile monster lay upon the border, Which is of stone, and shutteth in the sand.	25
75	That shall be first which is with others last. With him shalt thou see one who at his birth Has by this star of strength been so impressed, That notable shall his achievements be. Not yet the people are aware of him		His tail was wholly quivering in the void, Contorting upwards the envenomed fork, That in the guise of scorpion armed its point. The Guide said: "Now perforce must turn aside Our way a little, even to that beast	30
80	Through his young age, since only nine years yet Around about him have these wheels revolved But ere the Gascon cheat the noble Henry, Some sparkles of his virtue shall appear In caring not for silver nor for toil.		Malevolent, that yonder coucheth him."	35
L1[I] C	So recognized shall his magnificence Become hereafter, that his enemies Will not have power to keep mute tongues about it. On him rely, and on his benefits; By him shall many people be transformed,		We therefore on the right-hand side descended, And made ten steps upon the outer verge, Completely to avoid the sand and flame; And after we are come to him, I see A little farther off upon the sand	L1[I] 40 C
90	Changing condition rich and mendicant; And written in thy mind thou hence shalt bear Of him, but shalt not say it" — and things said he Incredible to those who shall be present. Then added: "Son, these are the commentaries	8	Then said to me the Master: "So that full Experience of this round thou bear away, Now go and see what their condition is. There let thy conversation be concise; Till thou returnest I will speak with him, That he concede to us his stalwart shoulders."	45
95	On what was said to thee; behold the snares That are concealed behind few revolutions; Yet would I not thy neighbors thou shouldst envy, Because thy life into the future reaches Beyond the punishment of their perfidies."	8	Thus farther still upon the outermost Head of that seventh circle all alone I went, where sat the melancholy folk. Out of their eyes was gushing forth their woe; This way, that way, they helped them with their hands Now from the flames and now from the hot soil. Not otherwise in summer do the dogs, Now with the foot, now with the muzzle, when	17.50
17.100	When by its silence showed that sainted soul That it had finished putting in the woof Into that web which I had given it warped, Began I, even as he who yearneth after, Being in doubt, some counsel from a person		By fleas, or flies, or gadflies, they are bitten. When I had turned mine eyes upon the faces Of some, on whom the dolorous fire is falling, Not one of them I knew; but I perceived That from the neck of each there hung a pouch, Which certain color had, and certain blazon; And thereupon it seems their eyes are feeding.	55
105	Who seeth, and uprightly wills, and loves: "Well see I, father mine, how spurreth on The time towards me such a blow to deal me As heaviest is to him who most gives way.	7	As came to Clymene, to be made certain Of that which he had heard against himself, He who makes fathers chary still to children, Even such was I, and such was I perceived By Beatrice and by the holy light That first on my account had changed its place.	17 Divine VII Comedy
650 17.109	Therefore with foresight it is well I arm me,	63		17.6

16.118 Already rising was, but from low people;
 Divine So that it pleased not Ubertin Donato
 VII Comedy 120 That his wife's father should make him their kin.
 Already had Caponsacco to the Market
 From Fesole descended, and already
 Giuda and Infangato were good burghers.
 I'll tell a thing incredible, but true;
 125 One entered the small circuit by a gate
 Which from the Della Pera took its name!
 Each one that bears the beautiful escutcheon
 Of the great baron whose renown and name
 The festival of Thomas keepeth fresh,
 130 Knighthood and privilege from him received;
 Though with the populace unites himself
 To-day the man who binds it with a border.
 Already were Gualterotti and Importuni;
 And still more quiet would the Borgo be
 135 If with new neighbors it remained unfed.
 The house from which is born your lamentation,
 Through just disdain that death among you brought
 And put an end unto your joyous life,
 Was honored in itself and its companions.
 140 O Buondelmonte, how in evil hour
 Thou fled'st the bridal at another's promptings!
 Many would be rejoicing who are sad,
 L2[O] If God had thee surrendered to the Ema
 C The first time that thou camest to the city.
 But it behoved the mutilated stone
 Which guards the bridge, that Florence should provide
 A victim in her latest hour of peace.
 With all these families, and others with them,
 Florence beheld I in so great repose,
 16.150 That no occasion had she whence to weep;
 With all these families beheld so just
 And glorious her people, that the lily
 Never upon the spear was placed reversed,
 16.154 ♦ Nor by division was vermilion made."
 17 **B**EHOLD the monster with the pointed tail,
 Who cleaves the hills, and breaketh walls and weapons,
 Behold him who infecteth all the world."
 Thus unto me my Guide began to say,
 5 And beckoned him that he should come to shore,
 Near to the confine of the trodden marble;
 And that uncleanly image of deceit
 Came up and thrust ashore its head and bust,
 But on the border did not drag its tail.
 10 The face was as the face of a just man,
 Its semblance outwardly was so benign,
 And of a serpent all the trunk beside.
 837 17.13 Two paws it had, hairy unto the armpits;

64 That, if the dearest place be taken from me,
 I may not lose the others by my songs.
 Down through the world of infinite bitterness,
 MIDPOINT And o'er the mountain, from whose beauteous summit P FROM GATE
 The eyes of my own Lady lifted me,
 And afterward through heaven from light to light, 115
 I have learned that which, if I tell again,
 Will be a savor of strong herbs to many.
 And if I am a timid friend to truth,
 I fear lest I may lose my life with those
 Who will hereafter call this time the olden." 120
 The light in which was smiling my own treasure
 Which there I had discovered, flashed at first
 As in the sunshine doth a golden mirror;
 Then made reply: "A conscience overcast
 Or with its own or with another's shame, 125
 Will taste forsooth the tartness of thy word;
 But ne'ertheless, all falsehood laid aside,
 Make manifest thy vision utterly,
 And let them scratch wherever is the itch;
 For if thine utterance shall offensive be 130
 At the first taste, a vital nutriment
 'T will leave thereafter, when it is digested.
 This cry of thine shall do as doth the wind,
 Which smiteth most the most exalted summits,
 And that is no slight argument of honor. L2[O]
 Therefore are shown to thee within these wheels, C
 Upon the mount and in the dolorous valley,
 Only the souls that unto fame are known;
 Because the spirit of the hearer rests not,
 Nor doth confirm its faith by an example 140
 Which has the root of it unknown and hidden,
 Or other reason that is not apparent." 17.142
 O THOU our poor nobility of blood, 16
 If thou dost make the people glory in thee
 Down here where our affection languishes,
 A marvellous thing it ne'er will be to me;
 For there where appetite is not perverted, 5
 I say in Heaven, of thee I made a boast!
 Truly thou art a cloak that quickly shortens,
 So that unless we piece thee day by day
 Time goeth round about thee with his shears!
 With You, which Rome was first to tolerate, 10
 (Wherein her family less perseveres,)
 Yet once again my words beginning made;
 Whence Beatrice, who stood somewhat apart,
 Smiling, appeared like unto her who coughed
 At the first failing writ of Guenever. 15
 And I began: "You are my ancestor,
 You give to me all hardihood to speak, 16.17 700

16.18	You lift me so that I am more than I. So many rivulets with gladness fill	65 (38C)	Has been the source of malady in cities, As in the body food it surfeits on;	16.68
20	My mind, that of itself it makes a joy Because it can endure this and not burst. Then tell me, my beloved root ancestral, Who were your ancestors, and what the years That in your boyhood chronicled themselves?		And a blind bull more headlong plunges down Than a blind lamb; and very often cuts Better and more a single sword than five. If Luni thou regard, and Urbisaglia, How they have passed away, and how are passing	70
25	Tell me about the sheepfold of Saint John, How large it was, and who the people were Within it worthy of the highest seats.” As at the blowing of the winds a coal Quickens to flame, so I beheld that light		Chiusi and Sinigaglia after them, To hear how races waste themselves away, Will seem to thee no novel thing nor hard, Seeing that even cities have an end. All things of yours have their mortality, Even as yourselves; but it is hidden in some	75
30	Become resplendent at my blandishments. And as unto mine eyes it grew more fair, With voice more sweet and tender, but not in This modern dialect, it said to me: “From uttering of the <i>Ave</i> , till the birth		That a long while endure, and lives are short; And as the turning of the lunar heaven Covers and bares the shores without a pause, In the like manner fortune does with Florence. Therefore should not appear a marvellous thing What I shall say of the great Florentines	80
35	In which my mother, who is now a saint, Of me was lightened who had been her burden, Unto its Lion had this fire returned Five hundred fifty times and thirty more, To reinflame itself beneath his paw.		Of whom the fame is hidden in the Past. I saw the Ughi, saw the Catellini, Filippi, Greci, Ormanni, and Alberichi, Even in their fall illustrious citizens;	85
40	My ancestors and I our birthplace had Where first is found the last ward of the city By him who runneth in your annual game. Suffice it of my elders to hear this;		And saw, as mighty as they ancient were, With him of La Sannella him of Arca, And Soldanier, Ardinghi, and Bostichi. Near to the gate that is at present laden	90
L2[I] C	But who they were, and whence they thither came, Silence is more considerate than speech. All those who at that time were there between Mars and the Baptist, fit for bearing arms, Were a fifth part of those who now are living; But the community, that now is mixed		With a ne felony of so much weight That soon it shall be jetsam from the bark, The Ravignani were, from whom descended The County Guido, and whoe’er the name Of the great Bellincione since hath taken.	L2[I] C
16.50	With Campi and Certaldo and Figghine, Pure in the lowest artisan was seen. O how much better ’t were to have as neighbors The folk of whom I speak, and at Galluzzo And at Trespiano have your boundary,	10 (6C)	He of La Pressa knew the art of ruling Already, and already Galigajo Had hilt and pommel gilded in his house. Mighty already was the Column Vair, Sacchetti, Giuochi, Fifant, and Barucci, And Galli, and they who for the bushel blush.	16.100
♦ 55	Than have them in the town, and bear the stench Of Aguglione’s churl, and him of Signa Who has sharp eyes for trickery already. Had not the folk, which most of all the world Degenerates, been a step-dame unto Caesar, But as a mother to her son benignant,	10	The stock from which were the Calfucci born Was great already, and already chosen To curule chairs the Sizii and Arrigucci. O how beheld I those who are undone By their own pride! and how the Balls of Gold Florence enflowered in all their mighty deeds!	105
60	Some who turn Florentines, and trade and discount, Would have gone back again to Simifonte There where their grandsires went about as beggars. At Montemurlo still would be the Counts, The Cerchi in the parish of Acone, Perhaps in Valdigrieve the Buondelmonti.	⑦	So likewise did the ancestors of those Who evermore, when vacant is your church, Fatten by staying in consistory. The insolent race, that like a dragon follows Whoever flees, and unto him that shows His teeth or purse is gentle as a lamb,	110
Divine VII Comedy 750	16.67 Ever the intermingling of the people	 65	Divine VII Comedy 800	16.117

20.11 Wondrously each one seemed to be distorted
Divine VIII Comedy From chin to the beginning of the chest;
15 For tow'rds the reins the countenance was turned,
And backward it behoved them to advance,
As to look forward had been taken from them.
Perchance indeed by violence of palsy
Some one has been thus wholly turned awry;
♦ But I ne'er saw it, nor believe it can be.
As God may let thee, Reader, gather fruit
20 From this thy reading, think now for thyself
How I could ever keep my face unmoistened,
When our own image near me I beheld,
Distorted so, the weeping of the eyes
Along the fissure bathed the hinder parts.
25 Truly I wept, leaning upon a peak
Of the hard crag, so that my Escort said
To me: "Art thou, too, of the other fools?
Here pity lives when it is wholly dead;
Who is a greater reprobate than he
30 Who feels compassion at the doom divine?
Lift up, lift up thy head, and see for whom
Opened the earth before the Thebans' eyes;
Wherefore they all cried: 'Whither rushest thou,
Amphiaraus? Why dost leave the war?'
35 And downward ceased he not to fall amain
L1[O] As far as Minos, who lays hold on all.
A See, he has made a bosom of his shoulders!
Because he wished to see too far before him
Behind he looks, and backward makes his way:
40 Behold Tiresias, who his semblance changed,
When from a male a female he became,
His members being all of them transformed;
And afterwards was forced to strike once more
The two entangled serpents with his rod,
45 Ere he could have again his manly plumes.
That Aruns is, who backs the other's belly,
Who in the hills of Luni, there where grubs
The Carrarese who houses underneath,
Among the marbles white a cavern had
1
20.50 For his abode; whence to behold the stars
And sea, the view was not cut off from him.
^ P 4,000 And she there, who is covering up her breasts,
Which thou beholdest not, with loosened tresses,
And on that side has all the hairy skin,
55 Was Manto, who made quest through many lands,
Afterwards tarried there where I was born;
Whereof I would thou list to me a little.
After her father had from life departed,
And the city of Bacchus had become enslaved,
350 20.60 She a long season wandered through the world.

66

1

1

7

66

7

LONGFELLOW

VIII

DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY



EPIC POEM

.ORG
DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

21

19

2L A 22, 21, 20.60

3L B 20.61, 21.98

2L C 21.99, 19, 20

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Inferno 22: 151 21: 139 20: 130 = 420

Paradiso 21: 142 19: 148 20: 148 = 438

QUICK START

22 [1] 21 [421]

21 [152] 19 [563]

20 [291] 20 [711]

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:

tri-Canti descend I to VI,

ascend VII to XII.

Inferno tri-Canti descend;

Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;

Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

VIII

7

INTERLEAVABLE

language: English

copy text: H.W. Longfellow (1867)

typeface: Kings Caslon
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EPICPOEM.ORG 858 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

PRINT
2-SIDED:
66 to 75

22	I HAVE erewhile seen horsemen moving camp, Begin the storming, and their muster make, And sometimes starting off for their escape; Vaunt-couriers have I seen upon your land, 5 O Aretines, and foragers go forth, Tournaments stricken, and the joustings run, Sometimes with trumpets and sometimes with bells, ♦ With kettle-drums, and signals of the castles, And with our own, and with outlandish things, 10 But never yet with bagpipe so uncouth Did I see horsemen move, nor infantry, Nor ship by any sign of land or star. We went upon our way with the ten demons; Ah, savage company! but in the church 15 With saints, and in the tavern with the gluttons! Ever upon the pitch was my intent, To see the whole condition of that Bolgia, And of the people who therein were burned. Even as the dolphins, when they make a sign 20 To mariners by arching of the back, That they should counsel take to save their vessel, Thus sometimes, to alleviate his pain, One of the sinners would display his back, And in less time conceal it than it lightens. 25 As on the brink of water in a ditch L1[I] The frogs stand only with their muzzles out, A So that they hide their feet and other bulk, So upon every side the sinners stood; But ever as Barbariccia near them came, 30 Thus underneath the boiling they withdrew. I saw, and still my heart doth shudder at it, One waiting thus, even as it comes to pass One frog remains, and down another dives; And Graffiacan, who most confronted him, 35 Grappled him by his tresses smeared with pitch, And drew him up, so that he seemed an otter. I knew, before, the names of all of them, So had I noted them when they were chosen, And when they called each other, listened how. 40 "O Rubicante, see that thou do lay Thy claws upon him, so that thou mayst flay him," Cried all together the accursed ones. And I: "My Master, see to it, if thou canst, That thou mayst know who is the luckless wight, 45 Thus come into his adversaries' hands." Near to the side of him my Leader drew, Asked of him whence he was; and he replied: "I in the kingdom of Navarre was born; My mother placed me servant to a lord, 50 For she had borne me to a ribald knave,	67 (39C)	They lowered their rakes, and "Wilt thou have me hit him," They said to one another, "on the rump?" And answered: "Yes; see that thou nick him with it." But the same demon who was holding parley With my Conductor turned him very quickly, And said: "Be quiet, be quiet, Scarmiglione"; Then said to us: "You can no farther go Forward upon this crag, because is lying All shattered, at the bottom, the sixth arch. And if it still doth please you to go onward, Pursue your way along upon this rock; Near is another crag that yields a path. Yesterday, five hours later than this hour, One thousand and two hundred sixty-six Years were complete, that here the way was broken. I send in that direction some of mine To see if any one doth air himself; Go ye with them; for they will not be vicious. Step forward, Alichino and Calcabrina," Began he to cry out, "and thou, Cagnazzo; And Barbariccia, do thou guide the ten. Come forward, Libicocco and Draghignazzo, And tuskèd Ciriatto and Graffiacane, And Farfarello and mad Rubicante; Search ye all round about the boiling pitch; Let these be safe as far as the next crag, That all unbroken passes o'er the dens." "O me! what is it, Master, that I see? Pray let us go," I said, "without an escort, If thou knowest how, since for myself I ask none. If thou art as observant as thy wont is, Dost thou not see that they do gnash their teeth, And with their brows are threatening woe to us?" And he to me: "I will not have thee fear; Let them gnash on, according to their fancy, Because they do it for those boiling wretches." Along the left-hand dike they wheeled about; But first had each one thrust his tongue between His teeth towards their leader for a signal; And he had made a trumpet of his rump. ○ F a new pain behoves me to make verses And give material to the twentieth canto Of the first song, which is of the submerged. I was already thoroughly disposed To peer down into the uncovered depth, Which bathed itself with tears of agony; And people saw I through the circular valley, Silent and weeping, coming at the pace Which in this world the Litanies assume. As lower down my sight descended on them, ‡	21.100 105 110 115 120 L1[I] A 130 2 (1C) 2 21.139 20 P-0-5,000 5 Divine VIII Comedy 300 20.10
Divine VIII Comedy	67	Divine VIII Comedy		

21.50	Therefore, if for our gaffs thou wishest not, Do not uplift thyself above the pitch.”	68 (40C)	Destroyer of himself and of his things.	22.51
Divine VIII Comedy	They seized him then with more than a hundred rakes; They said: “It here behoves thee to dance covered, That, if thou canst, thou secretly mayest pilfer.”		Then I domestic was of good King Thibault; I set me there to practise barratry, For which I pay the reckoning in this heat.”	Divine VIII Comedy
55	Not otherwise the cooks their scullions make Immerse into the middle of the caldron		And Ciriatto, from whose mouth projected, On either side, a tusk, as in a boar, Caused him to feel how one of them could rip.	55
♦	The meat with hooks, so that it may not float. Said the good Master to me: “That it be not Apparent thou art here, crouch thyself down		Among malicious cats the mouse had come; But Barbariccia clasped him in his arms, And said: “Stand ye aside, while I enfork him.”	60
60	Behind a jag, that thou mayest have some screen; And for no outrage that is done to me Be thou afraid, because these things I know, For once before was I in such a scuffle.”		And to my Master he turned round his head; “Ask him again,” he said, “if more thou wish To know from him, before some one destroy him.”	
65	Then he passed on beyond the bridge’s head, And as upon the sixth bank he arrived, Need was for him to have a steadfast front. With the same fury, and the same uproar, As dogs leap out upon a mendicant,		The Guide: “Now tell then of the other culprits; Knowest thou any one who is a Latian, Under the pitch?” And he: “I separated	65
70	They issued from beneath the little bridge, And turned against him all their grappling-irons; But he cried out: “Be none of you malignant! Before those hooks of yours lay hold of me, Let one of you step forward, who may hear me, And then take counsel as to grappling me.”		Lately from one who was a neighbor to it; Would that I still were covered up with him, For I should fear not either claw nor hook!”	
L2[O] A	They all cried out: “Let Malacoda go”; Whereat one started, and the rest stood still, And he came to him, saying: “What avails it?” “Thinkest thou, Malacoda, to behold me		And Libicocco: “We have borne too much”; And with his grapnel seized him by the arm, So that, by rending, he tore off a tendon.	70
80	Advanced into this place,” my Master said, “Safe hitherto from all your skill of fence, Without the will divine, and fate auspicious? Let me go on, for it in Heaven is willed That I another show this savage road.”	3 (2C)	Eke Draghignazzo wished to pounce upon him Down at the legs; whence their Decurion Turned round and round about with evil look.	75
85	Then was his arrogance so humbled in him, That he let fall his grapnel at his feet, And to the others said: “Now strike him not.” And unto me my Guide: “O thou, who sittest	3	When they again somewhat were pacified, Of him, who still was looking at his wound, Demanded my Conductor without stay: “Who was that one, from whom a luckless parting Thou sayest thou hast made, to come ashore?”	L2[O] A
90	Among the splinters of the bridge crouched down, Securely now return to me again.” Wherefore I started and came swiftly to him; And all the devils forward thrust themselves, So that I feared they would not keep their compact.		And he replied: “It was the Friar Gomita, He of Gallura, vessel of all fraud, Who had the enemies of his Lord in hand, And dealt so with them each exults thereat; Money he took, and let them smoothly off, As he says; and in other offices	80
95	And thus beheld I once afraid the soldiers Who issued under safeguard from Caprona, Seeing themselves among so many foes. Close did I press myself with all my person Beside my Leader, and turned not mine eyes		A barrator was he, not mean but sovereign. Foregathers with him one Don Michael Zanche Of Logodoro; and of Sardinia To gossip never do their tongues feel tired. O me! see that one, how he grinds his teeth; Still farther would I speak, but am afraid Lest he to scratch my itch be making ready.”	85
250	From off their countenance, which was not good.	7	And the grand Provost, turned to Farfarello, Who rolled his eyes about as if to strike, Said: “Stand aside there, thou malicious bird.” “If you desire either to see or hear,” The terror-stricken recommenced thereon, “Tuscans or Lombards, I will make them come.	90
21.99		68	But let the Malebranche cease a little,	95
				100

22.101	So that these may not their revenges fear, And I, down sitting in this very place, For one that I am will make seven come , When I shall whistle, as our custom is	69 (41C)	And in this manner busied did we leave them.	22.151
105	To do whenever one of us comes out.” Cagnazzo at these words his muzzle lifted, Shaking his head, and said: “Just hear the trick Which he has thought of, down to throw himself!” Whence he, who snares in great abundance had,		F ROM bridge to bridge thus, speaking other things Of which my Comedy cares not to sing, We came along, and held the summit, when We halted to behold another fissure Of Malebolge and other vain laments;	21 5
◆	Responded: “I by far too cunning am, When I procure for mine a greater sadness.” Alichin held not in, but running counter Unto the rest, said to him: “If thou dive, I will not follow thee upon the gallop,		And I beheld it marvellously dark. As in the Arsenal of the Venetians Boils in the winter the tenacious pitch To smear their unsound vessels o’er again, For sail they cannot; and instead thereof	10
110	But I will beat my wings above the pitch; The height be left, and be the bank a shield To see if thou alone dost countervail us.” O thou who readest, thou shalt hear new sport! Each to the other side his eyes averted;		One makes his vessel new, and one recaulks The ribs of that which many a voyage has made; One hammers at the prow, one at the stern, This one makes oars, and that one cordage twists, Another mends the mainsail and the mizzen;	15
115	He first, who most reluctant was to do it. The Navarrese selected well his time; Planted his feet on land, and in a moment Leaped, and released himself from their design. Whereat each one was suddenly stung with shame,		Thus, not by fire, but by the art divine, Was boiling down below there a dense pitch Which upon every side the bank belimed. I saw it, but I did not see within it Aught but the bubbles that the boiling raised,	20
120	But he most who was cause of the defeat; L2[I] Therefore he moved, and cried: “Thou art o’ertaken.” A But little it availed, for wings could not Outstrip the fear; the other one went under, And, flying, upward he his breast directed.		The while below there fixedly I gazed, My Leader, crying out: “Beware, beware!” Drew me unto himself from where I stood. Then I turned round, as one who is impatient To see what it behoves him to escape,	L2[I] A
125	Not otherwise the duck upon a sudden Dives under, when the falcon is approaching, And upward he returneth cross and weary. Infuriate at the mockery, Calcabrina Flying behind him followed close, desirous	4 (3C)	And whom a sudden terror doth unman, Who, while he looks, delays not his departure; And I beheld behind us a black devil, Running along upon the crag, approach.	30
130	The other should escape, to have a quarrel. And when the barrator had disappeared, He turned his talons upon his companion, And grappled with him right above the moat. But sooth the other was a doughty sparrowhawk	4	Ah, how ferocious was he in his aspect! And how he seemed to me in action ruthless, With open wings and light upon his feet! His shoulders, which sharp-pointed were and high, A sinner did encumber with both haunches,	35
135	To clapperclaw him well; and both of them Fell in the middle of the boiling pond. A sudden intercessor was the heat; But ne’ertheless of rising there was naught, To such degree they had their wings belimed.		From off our bridge, he said: “O Malebranche, Behold one of the elders of Saint Zita; Plunge him beneath, for I return for others Unto that town, which is well furnished with them. All there are barrators, except Bonturo; No into Yes for money there is changed.”	40
140	Lamenting with the others, Barbariccia Made four of them fly to the other side With all their gaffs, and very speedily This side and that they to their posts descended; They stretched their hooks towards the pitch-ensnared,	⑦	He hurled him down, and over the hard crag Turned round, and never was a mastiff loosened In so much hurry to pursue a thief. The other sank, and rose again face downward; But the demons, under cover of the bridge, Cried: “Here the Santo Volto has no place! Here swims one otherwise than in the Serchio;	45 Divine VIII Comedy
145	Who were already baked within the crust,	69		200
Divine VIII Comedy				
201	22.150			21.49

21.81	Whirling itself about like a swift millstone.	70 (42C)	Above in beauteous Italy lies a lake	20.61
	Then answer made the love that was therein:		At the Alp's foot that shuts in Germany	Divine
Divine	"On me directed is a light divine,		Over Tyrol, and has the name Benaco.	VIII
VIII	Piercing through this in which I am embosomed,		By a thousand springs, I think, and more, is bathed,	Comedy
Comedy	Of which the virtue with my sight conjoined		'Twixt Garda and Val Camonica, Pennino,	65
85	Lifts me above myself so far, I see		With water that grows stagnant in that lake.	
	The supreme essence from which this is drawn.		Midway a place is where the Trentine Pastor,	
♦	Hence comes the joyfulness with which I flame,		And he of Brescia, and the Veronese	
	For to my sight, as far as it is clear,		Might give his blessing, if he passed that way.	
90	The clearness of the flame I equal make.		Sitteth Peschiera, fortress fair and strong,	70
	But that soul in the heaven which is most pure,		To front the Brescians and the Bergamasks,	
	That Seraph which his eye on God most fixes,		Where round about the bank descendeth lowest.	
	Could this demand of thine not satisfy;		There of necessity must fall whatever	
	Because so deeply sinks in the abyss		In bosom of Benaco cannot stay,	
95	Of the eternal statute what thou askest,		And grows a river down through verdant pastures.	75
	From all created sight it is cut off.		Soon as the water doth begin to run,	
	And to the mortal world, when thou returnest,		No more Benaco is it called, but Mincio,	
	This carry back, that it may not presume		Far as Governo, where it falls in Po.	
	Longer tow'rd such a goal to move its feet.		Not far it runs before it finds a plain	
21.100	The mind, that shineth here, on earth doth smoke;		In which it spreads itself, and makes it marshy,	80
	From this observe how can it do below		And oft 't is wont in summer to be sickly.	
	That which it cannot though the heaven assume it?"		Passing that way the virgin pitiless	
	Such limit did its words prescribe to me,		Land in the middle of the fen descried,	
	The question I relinquished, and restricted		Untilled and naked of inhabitants;	
105	Myself to ask it humbly who it was.		There to escape all human intercourse,	85
L1[O]	"Between two shores of Italy rise cliffs,		She with her servants stayed, her arts to practise,	L1[O]
B	And not far distant from thy native place,		And lived, and left her empty body there.	B
	So high, the thunders far below them sound,		The men, thereafter, who were scattered round,	
	And form a ridge that Catria is called,		Collected in that place, which was made strong	
110	'Neath which is consecrate a hermitage		By the lagoon it had on every side;	90
	Wont to be dedicate to worship only."		They built their city over those dead bones,	
	Thus unto me the third speech recommenced,	5 (4C)	And, after her who first the place selected,	
	And then, continuing, it said: "Therein		Mantua named it, without other omen.	
	Unto God's service I became so steadfast,		Its people once within more crowded were,	
115	That feeding only on the juice of olives		Ere the stupidity of Casalodi	95
	Lightly I passed away the heats and frosts,		From Pinamonte had received deceit.	
	Contented in my thoughts contemplative.		Therefore I caution thee, if e'er thou hearest	
	That cloister used to render to these heavens		Originate my city otherwise,	
	Abundantly, and now is empty grown,	5	No falsehood may the verity defraud."	
120	So that perforce it soon must be revealed.		And I: "My Master, thy discourses are	20.100
	I in that place was Peter Damiano;		To me so certain, and so take my faith,	MIDPOINT FROM
	And Peter the Sinner was I in the house		That unto me the rest would be spent coals.	START (P- WITH B B)-XII
	Of Our Lady on the Adriatic shore.		But tell me of the people who are passing,	
	Little of mortal life remained to me,		If any one note-worthy thou beholdest,	
125	When I was called and dragged forth to the hat		For only unto that my mind reverts."	105
	Which shifteth evermore from bad to worse.		Then said he to me: "He who from the cheek	
	Came Cephas, and the mighty Vessel came	⑦	Thrusts out his beard upon his swarthy shoulders	
	Of the Holy Spirit, meagre and barefooted,		Was, at the time when Greece was void of males,	
	Taking the food of any hostelry.		So that there scarce remained one in the cradle,	
055	21.130 Now some one to support them on each side		An augur, and with Calchas gave the moment,	20.110 400

He hurled him down, and over the hard crag
Turned round, and never was a mastiff loosened
In so much hurry to pursue a thief.

The other sank, and rose again face downward;

A PPEARED before me with its wings outspread
The beautiful image that in sweet fruition
Made jubilant the interwoven souls;
Appeared a little ruby each, wherein
Ray of the sun was burning so enkindled
That each into mine eyes refracted it.
And what it now behoves me to retrace
Nor voice has e'er reported, nor ink written,
Nor was by fantasy e'er comprehended;
For speak I saw, and likewise heard, the beak,
And utter with its voice both *I* and *My*,
When in conception it was *We* and *Our*.
And it began: "Being just and merciful
Am I exalted here unto that **glory**
Which cannot be exceeded by desire;
And upon earth I left my memory
Such, that the evil-minded people there
Commend it, but continue not the story."
So doth a single heat **from many** embers
Make itself felt, even as **from many** loves
Issued **a single sound** from out that image.
Whence I thereafter: "O perpetual flowers
Of the eternal joy, that only one
Make me perceive your odors manifold,
Exhaling, break within me the great fast
Which a long season has in hunger held me,
Not finding for it any food on earth.
Well do I know, that if in heaven its mirror
Justice Divine another realm doth make,
Yours apprehends it not through any veil.
You know how I attentively address me
To listen; and you know what is the doubt
That is in me so very old a fast."
Even as a falcon issuing from his hood,
Doth move his head, and with his wings applaud him,
Showing desire, and making himself fine,
Saw I become that standard, which of lauds
Was interwoven of the grace divine,
With such songs as he knows who there rejoices.
Then it began: "He who a compass turned
On the world's outer verge, and who within it
Devised so much occult and manifest,
Could not the impress of his power so make
On all the universe, as that his Word
Should not remain in infinite excess.

And this makes certain that the first proud being,

The modern shepherds need, and some to lead them,
So heavy are they, and to hold their trains.
They cover up their palfreys with their cloaks,
So that two beasts go underneath one skin;
O Patience, that dost tolerate so much!"

At this voice saw I many little flames
From step to step descending and revolving,
And every revolution made them fairer.
Round about this one came they and stood still,
And a cry uttered of so loud a sound,
It here could find no parallel, nor I
Distinguished it, the thunder so o'ercame me.

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 ♦ And this makes certain that the first proud being,
 Who was the paragon of every creature,
 By not awaiting light fell immature.
 And hence appears it, that each minor nature
 19.50 Is scant receptacle unto that good
 Which has no end, and by itself is measured.
 In consequence our vision, which perforce
 Must be some ray of that intelligence
 With which all things whatever are replete,
 55 Cannot in its own nature be so potent,
 That it shall not its origin discern
 Far beyond that which is apparent to it.
 Therefore into the justice sempiternal
 The power of vision that your world receives,
 60 As eye into the ocean, penetrates;
 Which, though it see **the bottom near the shore**,
 Upon the deep perceives it not, and yet
 'T is there, but it is hidden by the depth.
 L1[I] There is no light but comes from the serene
 C That never is o'ercast, nay, it is darkness
 Or shadow of the flesh, or else its poison.
 Amply to thee is **opened** now the cavern
 Which has concealed from thee the living justice
 Of which thou mad'st such frequent questioning.
 70 For saidst thou: 'Born a man is on the shore
 Of Indus, and is none who there can speak
 Of Christ, nor who can read, nor who can write;
 And all his inclinations and his actions
 Are good, so far as human reason sees,
 75 Without a sin in life or in discourse:
 He dieth unbaptized and without faith;
 Where is this justice that condemneth him?
 8 Where is his fault, if he do not believe?'
 Now who art thou, that on the bench wouldst sit
 80 In judgment at a thousand miles away,
 With the short vision of a single span?
 Truly to him who with me subtilizes,
 If so the Scripture were not over you,
 For doubting there were marvellous occasion.
 O animals terrene, O stolid minds,
 The primal will, that in itself is good,
 Ne'er from itself, the Good Supreme, has moved.
 650 19.88 So much is just as is accordant with it;

Divine
VIII
Comedy

73

8

8

7

73

Was given to me a pleasant medicine;
 And as good singer a good lutanist
 Accompanies with vibrations of the chords,
 Whereby more pleasantness the song acquires,
 So, while it spake, do I remember me
 That I beheld both of those blessed lights,
 Even as the winking of the eyes concords,
 Moving unto the words their little flames.

FROM bridge to bridge thus, speaking other things
 Of which **my Comedy** cares not to sing,
 We came along, and held the summit, when
 We halted to behold another fissure
 Of Malebolge and other vain laments;
 And I beheld it marvellously dark.
 As in the Arsenal of the Venetians
 Boils in the winter the tenacious pitch
 To smear their unsound vessels o'er again,
 For sail they cannot; and instead thereof
 One makes his vessel new, and one recaulks
 The ribs of that which many a voyage has made;
 One hammers at the prow, one at the stern,
 This one makes oars, and that one cordage twists,
 Another mends the mainsail and the mizzen;
 Thus, not by fire, but by the art divine,
 Was boiling down below there a dense pitch
 Which upon every side the bank belimed.

I saw it, but I did not see within it
 Aught but the bubbles that the boiling raised,
 20 And all **swell** up and resubside **compressed**.
 The while below there fixedly I gazed,
 My Leader, crying out: "Beware, beware!"
 Drew me unto himself from where I stood.
 Then I turned round, as one who is impatient
 25 To see what it behoves him to escape,
 And whom a sudden terror doth unman,
 Who, while he looks, delays not his departure;
 And I beheld behind us a black devil,
 Running along upon the crag, approach.
 30 Ah, how ferocious was he in his aspect!
 And how he seemed to me in action ruthless,
 With open wings and light upon his feet!
 His shoulders, which sharp-pointed were and high,
 A sinner did encumber with both haunches,
 35 And he held clutched the sinews of the feet.
 From off our bridge, he said: "O Malebranche,
 Behold one of the elders of Saint Zita;
 Plunge him beneath, for I return for others
 Unto that town, which is well furnished with them.
 40 All there are barrators, except Bonturo;
 No into Yes for money there is changed."

20.141

145

20.148

21

5

10

15

L1[I]

C

20

25

30

35

Divine
VIII
Comedy

21.42

858

20.91	Thou doest as he doth who a thing by name	74 (44C)	No good created draws it to itself,	19.89
Divine VIII Comedy	Well apprehendeth, but its quiddity		But it, by raying forth, occasions that.”	90 Divine VIII Comedy
	Cannot perceive, unless another show it.		Even as above her nest goes circling round	
95	<i>Regnum coelorum</i> suffereth violence		The stork when she has fed her little ones,	
	From fervent love, and from that living hope		And he who has been fed looks up at her,	
♦	That overcometh the Divine volition;		So lifted I my brows, and even such	95
	Not in the guise that man o’ercometh man,		Became the blessed image, which its wings	
	But conquers it because it will be conquered,		Was moving, by so many counsels urged.	
	And conquered conquers by benignity.		Circling around it sang, and said: “As are	
20.100	The first life of the eyebrow and the fifth		My notes to thee, who dost not comprehend them,	
	Cause thee astonishment, because with them		Such is the eternal judgment to you mortals.”	
	Thou seest the region of the angels painted.		Those lucent splendors of the Holy Spirit	19.100
	They passed not from their bodies, as thou thinkest,		Grew quiet then, but still within the standard	
	Gentiles, but Christians in the steadfast faith		That made the Romans reverend to the world.	
105	Of feet that were to suffer and had suffered.		It recommenced: “Unto this kingdom never	
	For one from Hell, where no one e’er turns back		Ascended one who had not faith in Christ,	
	Unto good will, returned unto his bones,		Before or since he to the tree was nailed.	105
	And that of living hope was the reward, —		But look thou, many crying are, ‘Christ, Christ!’	
	Of living hope, that placed its efficacy		Who at the judgment shall be far less near	
110	In prayers to God made to resuscitate him,		To him than some shall be who knew not Christ.	
	So that ’t were possible to move his will.		Such Christians shall the Ethiop condemn,	
	The glorious soul concerning which I speak,		When the two companies shall be divided,	110
	Returning to the flesh, where brief its stay,		The one forever rich, the other poor.	
	Believed in Him who had the power to aid it;		MIDPOINT FROM GATE (P. WITH B B)-XII	
115	And, in believing, kindled to such fire		What to your kings may not the Persians say,	
L2[O]	Of genuine love, that at the second death		When they that volume opened shall behold	L2[O]
C	Worthy it was to come unto this joy.		In which are written down all their dispraises?	C
	The other one, through grace, that from so deep		There shall be seen, among the deeds of Albert,	
	A fountain wells that never hath the eye		That which erelong shall set the pen in motion,	
120	Of any creature reached its primal wave,		For which the realm of Prague shall be deserted.	
	Set all his love below on righteousness;		There shall be seen the woe that on the Seine	
	Wherefore from grace to grace did God unclothe	9 (6C)	He brings by falsifying of the coin,	
	His eye to our redemption yet to be,		Who by the blow of a wild boar shall die.	120
	Whence he believed therein, and suffered not		There shall be seen the pride that causes thirst,	
125	From that day forth the stench of paganism,		Which makes the Scot and Englishman so mad	
	And he reproved therefor the folk perverse.		That they within their boundaries cannot rest;	
	Those Maidens three, whom at the right-hand wheel		Be seen the luxury and effeminate life	
	Thou didst behold, were unto him for baptism		Of him of Spain, and the Bohemian,	125
	More than a thousand years before baptizing.	9	Who valor never knew and never wished;	
130	O thou predestination, how remote		Be seen the Cripple of Jerusalem,	
	Thy root is from the aspect of all those		His goodness represented by an I,	
	Who the First Cause do not behold entire!		While the reverse an M shall represent;	
	And you, O mortals! hold yourselves restrained		Be seen the avarice and poltroonery	130
	In judging; for ourselves, who look on God,		Of him who guards the Island of the Fire,	
135	We do not know as yet all the elect;		Wherein Anchises finished his long life;	
	And sweet to us is such a deprivation,		And to declare how pitiful he is	
	Because our good in this good is made perfect,	⑦	Shall be his record in contracted letters	
	That whatsoe’er God wills, we also will.”		Which shall make note of much in little space.	135
	After this manner by that shape divine,		And shall appear to each one the foul deeds	
858	20.140 To make clear in me my short-sightedness,		Of uncle and of brother who a nation	
		74	So famous have dishonored, and two crowns.	19.138 700

19.139	And he of Portugal and he of Norway	75 (45C)	In so far as effect of his own counsel,	20.41
140	Shall there be known, and he of Rascia too,		By the reward which is commensurate.	
	Who saw in evil hour the coin of Venice.		Of five, that make a circle for my brow,	
	O happy Hungary, if she let herself		He that approacheth nearest to my beak	
	Be wronged no farther! and Navarre the happy,		Did the poor widow for her son console;	45
	If with the hills that gird her she be armed!		Now knoweth he how dearly it doth cost	
145	And each one may believe that now, as hansel		Not following Christ, by the experience	
♦	Thereof, do Nicosia and Famagosta		Of this sweet life and of its opposite.	
	Lament and rage because of their own beast,		He who comes next in the circumference	
19.148	Who from the others' flank departeth not."		Of which I speak, upon its highest arc,	20.50
20	WHEN he who all the world illuminates		Did death postpone by penitence sincere;	
	Out of our hemisphere so far descends		Now knoweth he that the eternal judgment	
	That on all sides the daylight is consumed,		Suffers no change, albeit worthy prayer	
	The heaven, that erst by him alone was kindled,		Maketh below to-morrow of to-day.	
5	Doth suddenly reveal itself again		The next who follows, with the laws and me,	55
	By many lights, wherein is one resplendent.		Under the good intent that bore bad fruit	
	And came into my mind this act of heaven,		Became a Greek by ceding to the pastor;	
	When the ensign of the world and of its leaders		Now knoweth he how all the ill deduced	
	Had silent in the blessed beak become;		From his good action is not harmful to him,	
10	Because those living luminaries all,		Although the world thereby may be destroyed.	60
	By far more luminous, did songs begin		And he, whom in the downward arc thou seest	
	Lapsing and falling from my memory.		Guglielmo was, whom the same land deplores	
	O gentle Love, that with a smile dost cloak thee,		That weepeth Charles and Frederick yet alive;	
	How ardent in those sparks didst thou appear,		Now knoweth he how heaven enamored is	
15	That had the breath alone of holy thoughts!		With a just king; and in the outward show	65
L2[I]	After the precious and pellucid crystals,		Of his effulgence he reveals it still.	L2[I]
VP 6,000	With which begemmed the sixth light I beheld,		Who would believe, down in the errant world,	C
C	Silence imposed on the angelic bells,		That e'er the Trojan Ripheus in this round	
	I seemed to hear the murmuring of a river		Could be the fifth one of the holy lights?	
20	That clear descendeth down from rock to rock,		Now knoweth he enough of what the world	70
	Showing the affluence of its mountain-top.		Has not the power to see of grace divine,	
	And as the sound upon the cithern's neck	10 (7C)	Although his sight may not discern the bottom."	
	Taketh its form, and as upon the vent		Like as a lark that in the air expatiates,	
	Of rustic pipe the wind that enters it,		First singing and then silent with content	
25	Even thus, relieved from the delay of waiting,		Of the last sweetness that doth satisfy her,	75
	That murmuring of the eagle mounted up		Such seemed to me the image of the imprint	
	Along its neck, as if it had been hollow.		Of the eternal pleasure, by whose will	
	There it became a voice, and issued thence		Doth everything become the thing it is.	
	From out its beak, in such a form of words	10	And notwithstanding to my doubt I was	
30	As the heart waited for wherein I wrote them.		As glass is to the color that invests it,	80
	"The part in me which sees and bears the sun		To wait the time in silence it endured not,	
	In mortal eagles," it began to me,		But forth from out my mouth, "What things are these?"	
	"Now fixedly must needs be looked upon;		Extorted with the force of its own weight;	
	For of the fires of which I make my figure,		Whereat I saw great joy of coruscation.	
35	Those whence the eye doth sparkle in my head		Thereafterward with eye still more enkindled	85
	Of all their orders the supremest are.		The blessed standard made to me reply,	
	He who is shining in the midst as pupil	⑦	To keep me not in wonderment suspended:	
	Was once the singer of the Holy Spirit,		"I see that thou believest in these things	
	Who bore the ark from city unto city;		Because I say them, but thou seest not how;	
Divine VIII Comedy	Now knoweth he the merit of his song,		So that, although believed in, they are hidden.	Divine VIII Comedy
750	20.40		20.90	800

24.8 And him somewhat bedew; ye drinking are
Divine IX Comedy 10 For ever at the fount whence comes his thought.”
Thus Beatrice; and those souls beatified
Transformed themselves to spheres on steadfast poles,
Flaming intensely in the guise of comets.
And as the wheels in works of horologes
Revolve so that the first to the beholder
15 Motionless seems, and the last one to fly,
So in like manner did those carols, dancing
In different measure, of their affluence
Give me the gauge, as they were swift or slow.
From that one which I noted of most beauty
20 Beheld I issue forth a fire so happy
That none it left there of a greater brightness;
And around Beatrice three several times
It whirled itself with so divine a song,
My fantasy repeats it not to me;
25 Therefore the pen skips, and I write it not,
Since our imagination for such folds,
Much more our speech, is of a tint too glaring.
“O holy sister mine, who us implorest
With such devotion, by thine ardent love
30 Thou dost unbind me from that beautiful sphere!”
Thereafter, having stopped, the blessed fire
Unto my Lady did direct its breath,
L1[O] Which spake in fashion as I here have said.
A And she: “O light eterne of the great man
To whom our Lord delivered up the keys
He carried down of this miraculous joy,
This one examine on points light and grave,
As good beseemeth thee, about the Faith
By means of which thou on the sea didst walk.
40 If he love well, and hope well, and believe,
From thee ’t is hid not; for thou hast thy sight
There where depicted everything is seen.
But since this kingdom has made citizens
By means of the true Faith, to glorify it
45 ’T is well he have the chance to speak thereof.”
As baccalaureate arms himself, and speaks not
Until the master doth propose the question,
To argue it, and not to terminate it,
So did I arm myself with every reason,
24.50 While she was speaking, that I might be ready
For such a questioner and such profession.
“Say, thou good Christian; manifest thyself;
What is the Faith?” Whereat I raised my brow
Unto that light wherefrom was this breathed forth.
Then turned I round to Beatrice, and she
Prompt signals made to me that I should pour
♦ The water forth from my internal fountain.
350 24.57

76

1

1

7

76

7

IX

LONGFELLOW
DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY



EPIC POEM

. O R G
DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

22
24

2L A 23, 22, 24.57
3L B 24.58, 25.103
2L C 25.104, 24, 23

QUICK START

23	[1]	25	[448]
22	[140]	24	[599]
24	[294]	23	[750]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Paradiso	23: 139	22: 154	24: 154 = 447
Inferno	25: 151	24: 151	23: 148 = 450

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti *descend* I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.

Inferno tri-Canti *descend*;
Paradiso tri-Canti *ascend*;
Purgatorio tri-Canti *erased*.

IX

7

INTERLEAVABLE

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EPICPOEM.ORG 897 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

PRINT
2-SIDED:
76 to 85

23 **E**VEN as a bird, 'mid the beloved leaves,
 Quiet upon the nest of her sweet brood
 Throughout the night, that hideth all things from us,
 Who, that she may behold their longed-for looks
 5 And find the food wherewith to nourish them,
 In which, to her, grave labours grateful are,
 Anticipates the time on open spray
 And with an ardent longing waits the sun,
 Gazing intent as soon as breaks the dawn:
 23.10 Even thus my Lady standing was, erect
 And vigilant, turned round towards the zone
 Underneath which the sun displays less haste;
 So that beholding her distraught and wistful,
 Such I became as he is who desiring
 15 For something yearns, and hoping is appeased.
 But brief the space from one When to the other;
 Of my awaiting, say I, and the seeing
 The welkin grow resplendent more and more.
 And Beatrice exclaimed: "Behold the hosts
 20 Of Christ's triumphal march, and all the fruit
 Harvested by the rolling of these spheres!"
 It seemed to me her face was all aflame;
 And eyes she had so full of ecstasy
 That I must needs pass on without describing.
 25 As when in nights serene of the full moon
 L1[I] Smiles Trivia among the nymphs eternal
 A Who paint the firmament through all its gulfs,
 Saw I, above the myriads of lamps,
 A Sun that one and all of them enkindled,
 30 E'en as our own doth the supernal sights,
 And through the living light transparent shone
 The lucent substance so intensely clear
 Into my sight, that I sustained it not.
 O Beatrice, thou gentle guide and dear!
 35 To me she said: "What overmasters thee
 A virtue is from which naught shields itself
 There are the wisdom and the omnipotence
 That oped the thoroughfares 'twixt heaven and earth,
 For which there erst had been so long a yearning."
 40 As fire from out a cloud unlocks itself,
 Dilating so it finds not room therein,
 And down, against its nature, falls to earth,
 So did my mind, among those aliments
 Becoming larger, issue from itself,
 45 And that which it became cannot remember.
 "Open thine eyes, and look at what I am:
 Thou hast beheld such things, that strong enough
 Hast thou become to tolerate my smile."
 I was as one who still retains the feeling
 23.50 Of a forgotten vision, and endeavours

Divine ♦
 IX
 Comedy

77 (46C)

2 (1C)

2

7



O glorious stars, O light impregnated
 With mighty virtue, from which I acknowledge
 All of my genius, whatsoe'er it be,
 With you was born, and hid himself with you, 115
 He who is father of all mortal life,
 When first I tasted of the Tuscan air;
 And then when grace was freely given to me
 To enter the high wheel which turns you round,
 Your region was allotted unto me. 120
 To you devoutly at this hour my soul
 Is sighing, that it virtue may acquire
 For the stern pass that draws it to itself.
 "Thou art so near unto the last salvation,"
 Thus Beatrice began, "thou oughtest now 125
 To have thine eves unclouded and acute
 And therefore, ere thou enter farther in,
 Look down once more, and see how vast a world
 Thou hast already put beneath thy feet;
 So that thy heart, as jocund as it may, 130
 Present itself to the triumphant throng
 That comes rejoicing through this rounded ether."
 I with my sight returned through one and all
 The sevenfold spheres, and I beheld this globe
 Such that I smiled at its ignoble semblance; 135
 And that opinion I approve as best
 Which doth account it least; and he who thinks
 Of something else may truly be called just. L1[I]
 I saw the daughter of Latona shining A
 Without that shadow, which to me was cause 140
 That once I had believed her rare and dense.
 The aspect of thy son, Hyperion,
 Here I sustained, and saw how move themselves
 Around and near him Maia and Dione.
 Thence there appeared the temperateness of Jove 145
 'Twixt son and father, and to me was clear
 The change that of their whereabouts they make;
 And all the seven made manifest to me
 How great they are, and eke how swift they are,
 And how they are in distant habitations. 22.150
 The threshing-floor that maketh us so proud,
 To me revolving with the eternal Twins,
 Was all apparent made from hill to harbor!
 Then to the beauteous eyes mine eyes I turned. 22.154
 O COMPANY elect to the great supper 24
 Of the Lamb benedight, who feedeth you
 So that for ever full is your desire,
 If by the grace of God this man foretaste
 Something of that which falleth from your table,
 Or ever death prescribe to him the time,
 Direct your mind to his immense desire, 24.7 300

Divine
 IX
 Comedy

22.62	In the remotest sphere shall be fulfilled,	78 (47C)	In vain to bring it back into his mind,	23.51
Divine	Where are fulfilled all others and my own.		When I this invitation heard, deserving	Divine
IX	There perfect is, and ripened, and complete,		Of so much gratitude, it never fades	IX
Comedy	Every desire; within that one alone		out of the book that chronicles the past.	Comedy
65	Is every part where it has always been;		If at this moment sounded all the tongues	55
	For it is not in space, nor turns on poles,		That Polyhymnia and her sisters made	
	And unto it our stairway reaches up,		Most lubrical with their delicious milk,	
	Whence thus from out thy sight it steals away.		To aid me, to a thousandth of the truth	
70	Up to that height the Patriarch Jacob saw it		It would not reach, singing the holy smile	
	Extending its supernal part, what time		And how the holy aspect it illumed.	60
	So thronged with angels it appeared to him.		And therefore, representing Paradise,	
	But to ascend it now no one uplifts		The sacred poem must perforce leap over,	
	His feet from off the earth, and now my Rule		Even as a man who finds his way cut off;	
75	Below remaineth for mere waste of paper.		But whoso thinketh of the ponderous theme,	
	The walls that used of old to be an Abbey		And of the mortal shoulder laden with it,	65
	Are changed to dens of robbers, and the cowl		Should blame it not, if under this it tremble.	
	Are sacks filled full of miserable flour.		It is no passage for a little boat	
	But heavy usury is not taken up		This which goes cleaving the audacious prow,	
80	So much against God's pleasure as that fruit		Nor for a pilot who would spare himself.	
	Which maketh so insane the heart of monks;		"Why doth my face so much enamor thee,	70
	For whatsoever hath the Church in keeping		That to the garden fair thou turnest not,	
	Is for the folk that ask it in God's name,		Which under the rays of Christ is blossoming?	
	Not for one's kindred or for something worse.		There is the Rose in which the Word Divine	
85	The flesh of mortals is so very soft,		Became incarnate; there the lilies are	
	That good beginnings down below suffice not		By whose perfume the good way was discovered."	75
L2[O]	From springing of the oak to bearing acorns.		Thus Beatrice; and I, who to her counsels	L2[O]
A	Peter began with neither gold nor silver,		Was wholly ready, once again betook me	A
	And I with orison and abstinence,		Unto the battle of the feeble brows.	
90	And Francis with humility his convent.		As in the sunshine, that unsullied streams	
	And if thou lookest at each one's beginning,		Through fractured cloud, ere now a meadow of flowers	80
	And then regardest whither he has run,		Mine eyes with shadow covered o'er have seen,	
	Thou shalt behold the white changed into brown.	3 (2C)	So troops of splendors manifold I saw	
	In verity the Jordan backward turned,		Illumined from above with burning rays,	
95	And the sea's fleeing, when God willed, were more		Beholding not the source of the effulgence.	
	A wonder to behold, than succor here."		O power benignant that dost so imprint them!	85
	Thus unto me he said; and then withdrew		Thou didst exalt thyself to give more scope	
	To his own band, and the band closed together;		There to mine eyes, that were not strong enough.	
	Then like a whirlwind all was upward rapt.		The name of that fair flower I e'er invoke	
22.100	The gentle Lady urged me on behind them	3	Morning and evening utterly enthralled	
	Up o'er that stairway by a single sign,		My soul to gaze upon the greater fire.	90
	So did her virtue overcome my nature;		And when in both mine eyes depicted were	
	Nor here below, where one goes up and down		The glory and greatness of the living star	
	By natural law, was motion e'er so swift		Which there excelleth, as it here excelled,	
105	That it could be compared unto my wing.		Athwart the heavens a little torch descended	
	Reader, as I may unto that devout		Formed in a circle like a coronal,	95
	Triumph return, on whose account I often		And cinctured it, and whirled itself about it.	
♦	For my transgressions weep and beat my breast, —	⑦	Whatever melody most sweetly soundeth	
	Thou hadst not thrust thy finger in the fire		On earth, and to itself most draws the soul,	
110	And drawn it out again, before I saw		Would seem a cloud that, rent asunder, thunders,	
250	22.111 The sign that follows Taurus, and was in it.	78	Compared unto the sounding of that lyre	23.100 100

23.101	Wherewith was crowned the sapphire beautiful, Which gives the clearest heaven its sapphire hue. “I am Angelic Love, that circle round The joy sublime which breathes from out the womb	79 (48C)	Since that the cry has startled thee so much, In which if thou hadst understood its prayers Already would be known to thee the vengeance Which thou shalt look upon before thou diest.	22.12 15
105	That was the hostelry of our Desire; And I shall circle, Lady of Heaven, while Thou followest thy Son, and mak'st diviner The sphere supreme, because thou enterest there.” Thus did the circulated melody		The sword above here smiteth not in haste Nor tardily, howe'er it seem to him Who fearing or desiring waits for it. But turn thee round towards the others now, For very illustrious spirits shalt thou see,	20
110	Seal itself up; and all the other lights Were making to resound the name of Mary. The regal mantle of the volumes all Of that world, which most fervid is and living With breath of God and with his works and ways,		If thou thy sight directest as I say.” As it seemed good to her mine eyes I turned, And saw a hundred spherules that together With mutual rays each other more embellished.	25
115	Extended over us its inner border, So very distant, that the semblance of it There where I was not yet appeared to me. Therefore mine eyes did not possess the power Of following the incoronated flame,		I stood as one who in himself represses The point of his desire, and ventures not To question, he so feareth the too much. And now the largest and most luculent Among those pearls came forward, that it might Make my desire concerning it content.	30
120	Which mounted upward near to its own seed. And as a little child, that towards its mother Stretches its arms, when it the milk has taken, Through impulse kindled into outward flame, Each of those gleams of whiteness upward reached		Within it then I heard: “If thou couldst see Even as myself the charity that burns Among us, thy conceits would be expressed; But, that by waiting thou mayst not come late To the high end, I will make answer even	35
125	So with its summit, that the deep affection They had for Mary was revealed to me. L2[I] A Thereafter they remained there in my sight, <i>Regina coeli</i> singing with such sweetness, That ne'er from me has the delight departed.		Unto the thought of which thou art so chary. That mountain on whose slope Cassino stands Was frequented of old upon its summit By a deluded folk and ill-disposed; And I am he who first up thither bore	L2[I] A 40
130	O, what exuberance is garnered up Within those richest coffers, which had been Good husbandmen for sowing here below! There they enjoy and live upon the treasure Which was acquired while weeping in the exile	4 (3C)	The name of Him who brought upon the earth The truth that so much sublimateth us. And such abundant grace upon me shone That all the neighboring towns I drew away From the impious worship that seduced the world.	45
135	Of Babylon, wherein the gold was left. There triumpheth, beneath the exalted Son Of God and Mary, in his victory, Both with the ancient council and the new,		These other fires, each one of them, were men Contemplative, enkindled by that heat Which maketh holy flowers and fruits spring up. Here is Macarius, here is Romualdus, Here are my brethren, who within the cloisters	22.50
23.139 22	○ He who doth keep the keys of such a glory. PPRESSED with stupor, I unto my guide Turned like a little child who always runs For refuge there where he confideth most; And she, even as a mother who straightway	4	And I to him: “The affection which thou showest Speaking with me, and the good countenance Which I behold and note in all your ardors, In me have so my confidence dilated As the sun doth the rose, when it becomes As far unfolded as it hath the power.	55
5	Gives comfort to her pale and breathless boy With voice whose wont it is to reassure him, Said to me: “Knowest thou not thou art in heaven, And knowest thou not that heaven is holy all, And what is done here cometh from good zeal?	⑦	Therefore I pray, and thou assure me, father, If I may so much grace receive, that I May thee behold with countenance unveiled.” He thereupon: “Brother, thy high desire	60 200
Divine IX Comedy 10 051	22.11 After what wise the singing would have changed thee And I by smiling, thou canst now imagine,	 79		Divine IX Comedy 22.61

25.54 Then thrust its teeth through one cheek and the other;
 Divine IX Comedy The hindermost it stretched upon his thighs,
 And put its tail through in between the two,
 And up behind along the reins outspread it.
 Ivy was never fastened by its barbs
 Unto a tree so, as this horrible reptile
 60 Upon the other's limbs entwined its own:
 Then they stuck close, as if of heated wax
 They had been made, and intermixed their color;
 Nor one nor other seemed now what he was;
 E'en as proceedeth on before the flame
 65 Upward along the paper a brown color,
 Which is not black as yet, and the white dies.
 The other two looked on, and each of them
 Cried out: "O me, Agnello, how thou changest!
 Behold, thou now art neither two nor one."
 70 Already the two heads had one become,
 When there appeared to us two figures mingled
 Into one face, wherein the two were lost.
 Of the four lists were fashioned the two arms,
 The thighs and legs, the belly and the chest
 75 Members became that never yet were seen.
 Every original aspect there was cancelled;
 Two and yet none did the perverted image
 Appear, and such departed with slow pace.
 L1[O] Even as a lizard, under the great scourge
 B 80 Of days canicular, exchanging hedge,
 Lightning appeareth if the road it cross;
 Thus did appear, coming towards the bellies
 Of the two others, a small fiery serpent,
 Livid and black as is a peppercorn.
 85 And in that part whereat is first received
 Our aliment, it one of them transfixed;
 Then downward fell in front of him extended.
 The one transfixed looked at it, but said naught;
 Nay, rather with feet motionless he yawned,
 90 Just as if sleep or fever had assailed him.
 He at the serpent gazed, and it at him;
 One through the wound, the other through the mouth
 Smoked violently, and the smoke commingled.
 Henceforth be silent Lucan, where he mentions
 95 Wretched Sabellus and Nassidius,
 And wait to hear what now shall be shot forth.
 Be silent Ovid, of Cadmus and Arethusa;
 For if him to a snake, her to fountain,
 Converts he fabling, that I grudge him not;
 Divine 25.100 ♦ Because two natures never front to front
 IX Comedy Has he transmuted, so that both the forms
 055 25.103 To interchange their matter ready were.
 Together they responded in such wise,

80 (49C)

5 (4C)

5

⑦

80

"May grace, that suffers me to make confession,"
 Began I, "to the great centurion,
 Cause my conceptions all to be explicit!" 60
 And I continued: "As the truthful pen,
 Father, of thy dear brother wrote of it,
 Who put with thee Rome into the good way,
 Faith is the substance of the things we hope for,
 And evidence of those that are not seen;
 65 And this appears to me its quiddity."
 Then heard I: "Very rightly thou perceivest,
 If well thou understandest why he placed it
 With substances and then with evidences."
 And I thereafterward: "The things profound,
 70 That here vouchsafe to me their apparition,
 Unto all eyes below are so concealed,
 That they exist there only in belief,
 Upon the which is founded the high hope,
 And hence it takes the nature of a substance.
 75 And it behoveth us from this belief
 To reason without having other sight,
 And hence it has the nature of evidence."
 Then heard I: "If whatever is acquired
 Below by doctrine were thus understood,
 80 No sophist's subtlety would there find place."
 Thus was breathed forth from that enkindled love;
 Then added: "Very well has been gone over
 L1[O] Already of this coin the alloy and weight;
 B But tell me if thou hast it in thy purse?"
 And I: "Yes, both so shining and so round
 That in its stamp there is no peradventure."
 Thereafter issued from the light profound
 That there resplendent was: "This precious jewel,
 90 Upon the which is every virtue founded,
 Whence hadst thou it?" And I: "The large outpouring
 Of Holy Spirit, which has been diffused
 Upon the ancient parchments and the new,
 A syllogism is, which proved it to me
 95 With such acuteness, that, compared therewith,
 All demonstration seems to me obtuse."
 And then I heard: "The ancient and the new
 Postulates, that to thee are so conclusive,
 Why dost thou take them for the word divine?"
 And I: "The proofs, which show the truth to me,
 24.100 Are the works subsequent, whereunto Nature
 Ne'er heated iron yet, nor anvil beat."
 'T was answered me: "Say, who assureth thee
 That those works ever were? the thing itself
 That must be proved, nought else to thee affirms it."
 "Were the world to Christianity converted,"
 I said, "withouten miracles, this one 24.107

Divine
IX
Comedy

L1[O]
B

400

24.108 Is such, the rest are not its **hundredth** part;
 Because that poor and fasting thou didst enter
 110 Into the field to sow there the good plant,
 Which was a vine and has become a thorn!"
 This being finished, the high, holy Court
 Resounded through the spheres, "One God we praise!"
 In melody that there above is chanted.
 115 And then that Baron, who from branch to branch,
 Examining, had thus conducted me,
 Till the extremest leaves we were approaching,
 Again began: "The Grace that dallying
 Plays with thine intellect thy mouth has opened,
 120 Up to this point, as it should opened be,
 So that I do approve what forth emerged;
 But now thou must express what thou believest,
 And whence to thy belief it was presented."
 "O holy father, spirit who beholdest
 125 What thou believedst so that thou o'ercamest,
 Towards the sepulchre, more youthful feet,"
 Began I, "thou dost wish me in this place
 The form to manifest of my prompt belief,
 And likewise thou the cause thereof demandest.
 130 And I respond: In one God I believe,
 Sole and eterne, who moveth all the heavens
 With love and with desire, himself unmoved;
 L1[I] And of such faith not only have I proofs
 B Physical and metaphysical, but gives them
 Likewise the truth that from this place rains down
 Through Moses, through the Prophets and the Psalms,
 Through the Evangel, and through you, who wrote
 After the fiery Spirit sanctified you;
 In Persons three eterne believe, and these
 140 One essence I believe, so one and trine
 v P 0 6,000 They bear conjunction both with *sunt* and *est*.
 With the profound condition and divine
 Which now I touch upon, doth stamp my mind
 Ofttimes the doctrine evangelical.
 145 This the beginning is, this is the spark
 Which afterwards dilates to vivid flame,
 And, like a star in heaven, is sparkling in me."
 Even as a lord who hears what pleaseth him
 ‡ His servant straight embraces, gratulating
 24.150 For the good news as soon as he is silent;
 So, giving me its benediction, singing,
Three times encircled me, when I was silent,
 The apostolic light, at whose command
 Divine 24.154 ♦ I spoken had, in speaking I so pleased him.
 IX Comedy 25 **A** T the **conclusion** of his words, the thief
 P MID IX Lifted his hands aloft with both the figs,
 450 25.3 Crying: "Take that, God, for at thee I aim them."

81 (50C) From that time forth the serpents were my friends;
 For one entwined itself about his neck 5
 As if it said: "I will not thou speak more,"
 And round his arms another, and rebound him,
 Clinching itself together so in front,
 That with them he could not a motion make.
 Pistoia, ah, Pistoia! why resolve not 10
 To burn thyself to ashes and so perish,
 Since in ill-doing thou thy seed excellest?
 Through all the sombre circles of this Hell,
 Spirit I saw not against God so proud,
 Not he who fell at Thebes down from the walls! 15
 He fled away, and spake no further word;
 And I beheld a Centaur full of rage
 Come crying out: "Where is, where is the scoffer?"
 I do not think Maremma has so many
 Serpents as he had all along his back, 20
 As far as where our countenance begins.
 Upon the shoulders, just behind the nape,
 With wings wide open was a dragon lying,
 And he sets fire to all that he encounters.
 My Master said: "That one is Cacus, who 25
 Beneath the rock upon Mount Aventine
 Created oftentimes a lake of blood.
 He goes not on the same road with his brothers,
 By reason of the fraudulent theft he made L1[II]
 Of the great herd, which he had near to him; 30 B
 Whereat his tortuous actions ceased beneath
 The mace of Hercules, who peradventure
 Gave him a **hundred**, and he felt not **ten**."
 While he was speaking thus, he had passed by,
 And spirits three had underneath us come, 35
 Of which nor I aware was, nor my Leader,
 Until what time they shouted: "Who are you?" ^ P 3,000
 On which account our story made a halt,
 And then we were intent on them alone.
 I did not know them; but it came to pass, 40
 As it is wont to happen by some chance,
 That one to name the other was compelled,
 Exclaiming: "Where can Cianfa have remained?"
 Whence I, so that the Leader might attend,
 Upward from chin to nose my finger laid. 45
 If thou art, Reader, slow now to believe
 What I shall say, it will no marvel be,
 For I who saw it hardly can admit it.
 As I was holding raised on them my brows,
 Behold! a serpent with six feet darts forth 25.50 Divine
 In front of one, and fastens wholly on him. IX Comedy
 With middle feet it bound him round the paunch,
 And with the forward ones his arms it seized; 25.53 500

And she, even as a mother who straightway
Gives comfort to her pale and breathless boy
With voice whose wont it is to reassure him,
Said to me: "Knowest thou not thou art in heaven,
And knowest thou not that heaven is **holy** all,
And what is done here cometh from good zeal?
After what wise the singing would have changed thee
And I by smiling, thou canst now imagine,
Since that the cry has startled thee so much,
In which if thou hadst understood its prayers
Already would be known to thee the vengeance
Which thou shalt look upon before thou diest.
The **sword** above here smiteth not in haste
Nor tardily, howe'er it seem to him
Who fearing or desiring waits for it.
But turn thee round towards the others now,
For very illustrious spirits shalt thou see,
If thou thy sight directest as I say."
As it seemed good to her mine eyes I turned,
And saw a **hundred** spherules that together
With mutual rays each other more embellished.
I stood as one who in himself **represses**
The point of his desire, and ventures not
To question, he so feareth the too much.

24

¶ **T**HAT part of the youthful year wherein
The Sun his locks beneath Aquarius tempers,
And now the nights draw near to half the day,
What time the hoar-frost copies on the ground
The outward semblance of her sister white,
But little lasts the temper of her pen,
The husbandman, whose forage faileth him,
Rises, and looks, and seeth the champaign
All gleaming white, whereat he beats his flank,
Returns in doors, and up and down laments,
Like a poor wretch, who knows not what to do;
Then he returns and hope revives again,
Seeing the world has changed its countenance
In little time, and takes his shepherd's crook,
And forth the little lambs to pasture drives.
Thus did the Master fill me with alarm,
When I beheld his forehead so disturbed,
And to the ailment came as soon the plaster.
For as we came unto the ruined bridge,
The Leader turned to me with that sweet look
Which **at the mountain's foot I first beheld**.
His arms he opened, after some advisement
Within himself elected, looking first
Well at the ruin, and laid hold of me.
And **even** as he who acts and **meditates**,
For aye it seems that he provides beforehand,
So upward lifting me towards the summit

That to a fork the serpent cleft his tail,
And eke the wounded drew his feet together.
The legs together with the thighs themselves
Adhered so, that in little time the juncture
No sign whatever made that was apparent.
He with the cloven tail assumed the figure
The other one was losing, and his skin
Became elastic, and the other's hard.
I saw the arms draw inward at the armpits,
And both feet of the reptile, that were short,
Lengthen as much as those contracted were.
Thereafter the hind feet, together twisted,
Became the member that a man conceals,
And of his own the wretch had two created.
While both of them the exhalation veils
With a new color, and engenders hair
On one of them and depilates the other,
The one uprose and down the other fell,
Though turning not away their impious lamps,
Underneath which each one his muzzle changed.
He who was standing drew it tow'rds the temples,
And from excess of matter, which came thither,
Issued the ears from out the hollow cheeks;
What did not backward run and was retained
Of that **excess made to the face** a nose,
And the lips thickened far as was befitting.
He who lay prostrate thrusts his muzzle forward,
And backward draws the ears into his head,
In the same manner as the snail its horns;
And so the tongue, which was **entire** and apt
For speech before, is cleft, and the bi-forked
In the other closes up, and the smoke ceases.
The soul, which to a reptile had been changed,
Along the valley hissing takes to flight,
And after him the other speaking sputters.
Then did he turn upon him his new shoulders,
And said to the other: "I'll have Buoso run,
Crawling as I have done, along this road."
In this way I beheld the seventh ballast
Shift and reshift, and here be my excuse
The novelty, if aught my pen transgress.
And notwithstanding that mine eyes might be
Somewhat bewildered, and my mind dismayed,
They could not flee away so secretly
But that I plainly saw Puccio Sciancato;
And he it was who **sole of three** companions,
Which **came in the beginning**, was not changed;
The other was he whom thou, Gaville, weepst.

¶ **T**HAT part of the youthful year wherein
The Sun his locks beneath Aquarius tempers,

24.3 And now the nights draw near to half the day,
 What time the hoar-frost copies on the ground
 5 The outward semblance of her sister white,
 But little lasts the temper of her pen,
 The husbandman, whose forage faileth him,
 Rises, and looks, and seeth the champaign
 All gleaming white, whereat he beats his flank,
 10 Returns in doors, and up and down laments,
 Like a poor wretch, who knows not what to do;
 Then he returns and hope revives again,
 Seeing the world has changed its countenance
 In little time, and takes his shepherd's crook,
 15 And forth the little lambs to pasture drives.
 Thus did the Master fill me with alarm,
 When I beheld his forehead so disturbed,
 And to the ailment came as soon the plaster.
 For as we came unto the ruined bridge,
 20 The Leader turned to me with that sweet look
 Which at the mountain's foot I first beheld.
 His arms he opened, after some advisement
 Within himself elected, looking first
 Well at the ruin, and laid hold of me.
 25 And even as he who acts and meditates,
 For aye it seems that he provides beforehand,
 So upward lifting me towards the summit
 L1[I] Of a huge rock, he scanned another crag,
 C Saying: "To that one grapple afterwards,
 30 But try first if 't is such that it will hold thee."
 This was no way for one clothed with a cloak;
 For hardly we, he light, and I pushed upward,
 Were able to ascend from jag to jag.
 And had it not been, that upon that precinct
 35 Shorter was the ascent than on the other,
 He I know not, but I had been dead beat.
 But because Malebolge tow'rds the mouth
 Of the profoundest well is all inclining,
 The structure of each valley doth import
 40 That one bank rises and the other sinks.
 Still we arrived at length upon the point
 Wherefrom the last stone breaks itself asunder.
 The breath was from my lungs so milked away,
 When I was up, that I could go no farther,
 45 Nay, I sat down upon my first arrival.
 "Now it behoves thee thus to put off sloth,"
 My Master said; "for sitting upon down,
 Or under quilt, one cometh not to fame,
 Withouten which whoso his life consumes
 Divine IX Comedy 24.50 Such vestige leaveth of himself on earth,
 As smoke in air or in the water foam.
 24.52 And therefore raise thee up, o'ercome the anguish

83 Cause in this way their balances to creak. 23.102
 Frati Gaudenti were we, and Bolognese;
 I Catalano, and he Loderingo
 Named, and together taken by thy city, 105
 As the wont is to take one man alone,
 For maintenance of its peace; and we were such
 That still it is apparent round Gardingo."
 "O Friars," began I, "your iniquitous . . ."
 But said no more; for to mine eyes there rushed 110
 One crucified with three stakes on the ground.
 When me he saw, he writhed himself all over,
 Blowing into his beard with suspirations;
 And the Friar Catalan, who noticed this,
 Said to me: "This transfixed one, whom thou seest, 115
 Counsell'd the Pharisees that it was meet
 To put one man to torture for the people.
 Crosswise and naked is he on the path,
 As thou perceivest; and he needs must feel,
 Whoever passes, first **how much** he weighs; **VP 7,000** 120
 And in like mode his father-in-law is punished
 Within this moat, and the others of the council,
 Which for the Jews was a malignant seed."
 And thereupon I saw Virgilius marvel
 O'er him who was extended on the cross 125
 So vilely in eternal banishment.
 Then he directed to the Friar this voice: L1[I]
 "Be not displeased, if granted thee, to tell us C
 If to the right hand any pass slope down
 By which we two may issue forth from here, 130
 Without constraining some of the black angels
 To come and extricate us from this deep."
 Then he made answer: "Nearer than thou hopest
 There is a rock, that forth from the great circle
 Proceeds, and crosses all the cruel valleys, 135
 Save that at this 't is broken, and does not bridge it;
 You will be able to mount up the ruin,
 That sidelong slopes and at the bottom rises."
 The Leader stood awhile with head bowed down;
 Then said: "The business badly he recounted 140
 Who grapples with his hook the sinners yonder."
 And the Friar: "Many of the Devil's vices
 Once heard I at Bologna, and among them,
 That he's a liar and the father of lies."
 Thereat my Leader with great strides went on, 145
 Somewhat disturbed with anger in his looks;
 Whence from the heavy-laden I departed
 After the prints of his beloved feet. 23.148
 Divine IX Comedy 22
 PPRESSED with stupor, I unto my guide
 Turned like a little child who always runs
 For refuge there where he confideth most; 22.3 897

(7)

23.52	Hardly the bed of the ravine below	84 (51C)	With spirit that o'ercometh every battle,	24.53
Divine IX Comedy	His feet had reached, ere they had reached the hill		If with its heavy body it sink not.	Divine IX Comedy
55	Right over us; but he was not afraid;		A longer stairway it behoves thee mount;	
	For the high Providence, which had ordained		'T is not enough from these to have departed;	
	To place them ministers of the fifth moat,		Let it avail thee, if thou understand me."	
	The power of thence departing took from all.		Then I uprose, showing myself provided	
	A painted people there below we found,		Better with breath than I did feel myself,	60
60	Who went about with footsteps very slow,		And said: "Go on, for I am strong and bold."	
	Weeping and in their semblance tired and vanquished.		Upward we took our way along the crag,	
	They had on mantles with the hoods low down		Which jagged was, and narrow, and difficult,	
	Before their eyes, and fashioned of the cut		And more precipitous far than that before.	
	That in Cologne they for the monks are made.		Speaking I went, not to appear exhausted;	
	Without, they gilded are so that it dazzles;		Whereat a voice from the next moat came forth,	65
65	But inwardly all leaden and so heavy		Not well adapted to articulate words.	
	That Frederick used to put them on of straw.		I know not what it said, though o'er the back	
	O everlastingly fatiguing mantle!		I now was of the arch that passes there;	
	Again we turned us, still to the left hand		But he seemed moved to anger who was speaking.	
	Along with them, intent on their sad plaint;		I was bent downward, but my living eyes	70
70	But owing to the weight, that weary folk		Could not attain the bottom, for the dark;	
	Came on so tardily, that we were new		Wherefore I: "Master, see that thou arrive	
	In company at each motion of the haunch.		At the next round, and let us descend the wall;	
	Whence I unto my Leader: "See thou find		For as from hence I hear and understand not,	
	Some one who may by deed or name be known,		So I look down and nothing I distinguish."	75
75	And thus in going move thine eye about."		"Other response," he said, "I make thee not,	
	And one, who understood the Tuscan speech,		Except the doing; for the modest asking	
L2[O]	Cried to us from behind: "Stay ye your feet,		Ought to be followed by the deed in silence."	L2[O]
C	Ye, who so run athwart the dusky air!		We from the bridge descended at its head,	C
	Perhaps thou 'lt have from me what thou demandest."		Where it connects itself with the eighth bank,	80
80	Whereat the Leader turned him, and said: "Wait,		And then was manifest to me the Bolgia;	
	And then according to his pace proceed."		And I beheld therein a terrible throng	
	I stopped, and two beheld I show great haste	9 (6C)	Of serpents, and of such a monstrous kind,	
	Of spirit, in their faces, to be with me;		That the remembrance still congeals my blood	
	But the burden and the narrow way delayed them.		Let Libya boast no longer with her sand;	85
85	When they came up, long with an eye askance		For if Chelydri, Jaculi, and Phareae	
	They scanned me without uttering a word.		She breeds, with Cenchri and with Amphisbaena,	
	Then to each other turned, and said together:		Neither so many plagues nor so malignant	
	"He by the action of his throat seems living;		E'er showed she with all Ethiopia,	
	And if they dead are, by what privilege		Nor with whatever on the Red Sea is!	90
90	Go they uncovered by the heavy stole?"	9	Among this cruel and most dismal throng	
	Then said to me: "Tuscan, who to the college		People were running naked and affrighted,	
	Of miserable hypocrites art come,		Without the hope of hole or heliotrope.	
	Do not disdain to tell us who thou art."		They had their hands with serpents bound behind them;	
	And I to them: "Born was I, and grew up		These riveted upon their reins the tail	95
95	In the great town on the fair river of Arno,		And head, and were in front of them entwined.	
	And with the body am I 've always had.		And lo! at one who was upon our side	
	But who are ye, in whom there trickles down		There darted forth a serpent, which transfixed him	
♦	Along your cheeks such grief as I behold?	⑦	There where the neck is knotted to the shoulders.	
	And what pain is upon you, that so sparkles?"		Nor O so quickly e'er, nor I was written,	24.100
23.100	And one replied to me: "These orange cloaks		As he took fire, and burned; and ashes wholly	
23.101	Are made of lead so heavy, that the weights	84	Behoved it that in falling he became.	24.102 700

24.103 And when he on the ground was thus destroyed,
The ashes drew together, and of themselves
Into himself they instantly returned.
Even thus by the great sages 't is confessed
The phoenix dies, and then is born again,
When it approaches its five-hundredth year;
On herb or grain it feeds not in its life,
110 But only on tears of incense and amomum,
And nard and myrrh are its last winding-sheet.
And as he is who falls, and knows not how,
By force of demons who to earth down drag him,
Or other oppilation that binds man,
115 When he arises and around him looks,
Wholly bewildered by the mighty anguish
Which he has suffered, and in looking sighs;
Such was that sinner after he had risen.
Justice of God! O how severe it is,
120 That blows like these in vengeance poureth down!
The Guide thereafter asked him who he was;
Whence he replied: "I rained from Tuscany
A short time since into this cruel gorge.
A bestial life, and not a human, pleased me,
125 Even as the mule I was; I 'm Vanni Fucci,
Beast, and Pistoia was my worthy den."
And I unto the Guide: "Tell him to stir not,
L2[I] And ask what crime has thrust him here below,
C For once a man of blood and wrath I saw him."
130 And the sinner, who had heard, dissembled not,
But unto me directed mind and face,
And with a melancholy shame was painted.
Then said: "It pains me more that thou hast caught me
Amid this misery where thou seest me,
135 Than when I from the other life was taken.
What thou demandest I cannot deny;
So low am I put down because I robbed
The sacristy of the fair ornaments,
And falsely once 't was laid upon another;
140 But that thou mayst not such a sight enjoy,
If thou shalt e'er be out of the dark places,
Thine ears to my announcement ope and hear:
Pistoia first of Neri groweth meagre;
Then Florence doth renew her men and manners;
145 Mars draws a vapor up from Val di Magra,
Which is with turbid clouds enveloped round,
And with impetuous and bitter tempest
Over Campo Picen shall be the battle;
When it shall suddenly rend the mist asunder,
Divine IX Comedy 150 So that each Bianco shall thereby be smitten.

24.151 S And this I 've said that it may give thee pain."
23 SILENT, alone, and without company

85 (52C)

10 (7C)

10

⑦

85

We went, the one in front, the other after,
As go the Minor Friars along their way.
Upon the fable of Aesop was directed
My thought, by reason of the present quarrel,
5 Where he has spoken of the frog and mouse;
For *mo* and *issa* are not more alike
Than this one is to that, if well we couple
End and beginning with a steadfast mind.
And even as one thought from another springs,
10 So afterward from that was born another,
Which the first fear within me double made.
Thus did I ponder: "These on our account
Are laughed to scorn, with injury and scoff
So great, that much I think it must annoy them.
15 If anger be engrafted on ill-will,
They will come after us more merciless
Than dog upon the leveret which he seizes,"
I felt my hair stand all on end already
With terror, and stood backwardly intent,
20 When said I: "Master, if thou hidest not
Thyself and me forthwith, of Malebranche
I am in dread; we have them now behind us;
I so imagine them, I already feel them."
And he: "If I were made of leaded glass,
25 Thine outward image I should not attract
Sooner to me than I imprint the inner.
Just now thy thoughts came in among my own,
C With similar attitude and similar face,
30 So that of both one counsel sole I made.
If peradventure the right bank so slope
That we to the next Bolgia can descend,
We shall escape from the imagined chase."
Not yet he finished rendering such opinion.
35 When I beheld them come with outstretched wings,
Not far remote, with will to seize upon us.
My Leader on a sudden seized me up,
Even as a mother who by noise is wakened,
And close beside her sees the enkindled flames,
40 Who takes her son, and flies, and does not stop,
Having more care of him than of herself,
So that she clothes her only with a shift;
And downward from the top of the hard bank
Supine he gave him to the pendent rock,
45 That one side of the other Bolgia walls.
Ne'er ran so swiftly water through a sluice
To turn the wheel of any land-built mill,
When nearest to the paddles it approaches,
As did my Master down along that border,
Bearing me with him on his breast away,
As his own son, and not as a companion.

23.2

5

10

15

20

25

L2[I]

C

30

35

40

45

Divine IX Comedy

23.50

23.51

800

27.17 Up through the point, giving it that vibration
Divine X Comedy
20 The tongue had given them in their passage out,
We heard it said: "O thou, at whom I aim
My voice, and who but now wast speaking Lombard,
Saying, 'Now go thy way, no more I urge thee,'
Because I come perchance a little late,
To stay and speak with me let it not irk thee;
Thou seest it irks not me, and I am burning.
25 If thou but lately into this blind world
Hast fallen down from that sweet Latian land,
Wherefrom I bring the whole of my transgression,
Say, if the Romagnuoli have peace or war,
For I was from the mountains there between
Urbino and the yoke whence Tiber bursts."
30 I still was downward bent and listening,
When my Conductor touched me on the side,
Saying: "Speak thou: this one a Latian is."
And I, who had beforehand my reply
35 In readiness, forthwith began to speak:
"O soul, that down below there art concealed,
Romagna thine is not and never has been
Without war in the bosom of its tyrants;
But open war I none have left there now.
40 Ravenna stands as it long years has stood;
The Eagle of Polenta there is brooding,
So that she covers Cervia with her vans.
L1[O] A The city which once made the long resistance,
And of the French a sanguinary heap,
45 Beneath the Green Paws finds itself again;
Verrucchio's ancient Mastiff and the new,
Who made such bad disposal of Montagna,
Where they are wont make wimbles of their teeth.
The cities of Lamone and Santerno
27.50 Governs the Lioncel of the white lair,
Who changes sides 'twixt summer-time and winter;
And that of which the Savio bathes the flank,
Even as it lies between the plain and mountain,
Lives between tyranny and a free state.
55 Now I entreat thee tell us who thou art;
Be not more stubborn than the rest have been,
So may thy name hold front there in the world."
After the fire a little more had roared
In its own fashion, the sharp point it moved
60 This way and that, and then gave forth such breath:
"If I believed that my reply were made
To one who to the world would e'er return,
This flame without more flickering would stand still;
But inasmuch as never from this depth
Did any one return, if I hear true,
Without the fear of infamy I answer,

LONGFELLOW
DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY



EPIC POEM

. O R G
DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

26
26

2L A 28, 26, 27.66
3L B 27.67, 25.130
2L C 25.131, 26, 27

QUICK START			
28	[1]	25	[421]
26	[193]	26	[560]
27	[285]	27	[702]

TOTAL LINE COUNT			
Inferno	28: 142	26: 142	27: 136 = 420
Paradiso	25: 139	26: 142	27: 148 = 429

A
A

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti descend I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.
Inferno tri-Canti descend;
Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;
Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

X^A

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EPICPOEM.ORG 849 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;
PRINT
2-SIDED:
86 to 95

28 **W**HO ever could, e'en with untrammelled words,
 Tell of the blood and of the wounds in full
 Which now I saw, by many times narrating?
 Each tongue would for a certainty fall short
 5 By reason of our speech and memory,
 That have small room to comprehend so much.
 If were again assembled all the people
 Which formerly upon the fateful land
 Of Puglia were lamenting for their blood
 10 Shed by the Romans and the lingering war
 That of the rings made such illustrious spoils,
 As Livy has recorded, who errs not,
 With those who felt the agony of blows
 By making counterstand to Robert Guiscard,
 15 And all the rest, whose bones are gathered still
 At Ceperano, where a renegade
 Was each Apulian, and at Tagliacozzo,
 Where without arms the old Alardo conquered,
 And one his limb transpierced, and one lopped off,
 20 Should show, it would be nothing to compare
 With the disgusting mode of the ninth Bolgia.
 A cask by losing centre-piece or cant
 Was never shattered so, as I saw one
 Rent from the chin to where one breaketh wind.
 25 Between his legs were hanging down his entrails;
L1[I] His heart was visible, and the dismal sack
A That maketh excrement of what is eaten.
 While I was all absorbed in seeing him,
 He looked at me, and opened with his hands
 30 His bosom, saying: "See now how I rend me;
 How mutilated, see, is Mahomet;
 In front of me doth Ali weeping go,
 Cleft in the face from forelock unto chin;
 And all the others whom thou here beholdest,
 35 Disseminators of scandal and of schism
 While living were, and therefore are cleft thus.
 A devil is behind here, who doth cleave us
 Thus cruelly, unto the falchion's edge
 Putting again each one of all this ream,
 40 When we have gone around the doleful road;
 By reason that our wounds are closed again
 Ere any one in front of him repass.
 But who art thou, that musest on the crag,
 Perchance to postpone going to the pain
 45 That is adjudged upon thine accusations?"
 "Nor death hath reached him yet, nor guilt doth bring him,"
 My Master made reply, "to be tormented;
 But to procure him full experience,
 Me, who am dead, behoves it to conduct him
 Down here through Hell, from circle unto circle;

87 (53C)

2 (1C)

2

⑦

 A

87

That man no farther onward should adventure.
 On the right hand behind me left I Seville,
 And on the other already had left Ceuta.
 'O brothers, who amid a hundred thousand
 Perils,' I said, 'have come unto the West,
 To this so inconsiderable vigil
 Which is remaining of your senses still, 115
 Be ye unwilling to deny the knowledge,
 Following the sun, of the unpeopled world.
 Consider ye the seed from which ye sprang;
 Ye were not made to live like unto brutes,
 But for pursuit of virtue and of knowledge.' 120
 So eager did I render my companions,
 With this brief exhortation, for the voyage,
 That then I hardly could have held them back.
 And having turned our stern unto the morning,
 We of the oars made wings for our mad flight, 125
 Evermore gaining on the larboard side.
 Already all the stars of the other pole
 The night beheld, and ours so very low
 It did not rise above the ocean floor.
 Five times rekindled and as many quenched 130
 Had been the splendor underneath the moon,
 Since we had entered into the deep pass,
 When there appeared to us a mountain, dim
 From distance, and it seemed to me so high **L1[I]**
 As I had never any one beheld. **A**
 Joyful were we, and soon it turned to weeping;
 For out of the new land a whirlwind rose,
 And smote upon the fore part of the ship.
 Three times it made her whirl with all the waters,
 At the fourth time it made the stern uplift, 140
 And the prow downward go, as pleased Another,
 Until the sea above us closed again." 26.142
27
A LREADY was the flame erect and quiet,
 To speak no more, and now departed from us
 With the permission of the gentle Poet;
 When yet another, which behind it came,
 Caused us to turn our eyes upon its top 5
 By a confused sound that issued from it.
 As the Sicilian bull (that bellowed first
 With the lament of him, and that was right,
 Who with his file had modulated it)
 Bellowed so with the voice of the afflicted, 10
 That, notwithstanding it was made of brass,
 Still it appeared with agony transfixed;
 Thus, by not having any way or issue
 At first from out the fire, to its own language
 Converted were the melancholy words.
 But afterwards, when they had gathered way 27.16

26.59	The ambush of the horse, which made the door	88 (54C)	And this is true as that I speak to thee."	28.51
Divine X Comedy	Whence issued forth the Romans' gentle seed;		More than a hundred were there when they heard him,	Divine X Comedy
	Therein is wept the craft, for which being dead		Who in the moat stood still to look at me,	
	Deidamia still deplores Achilles,		Through wonderment oblivious of their torture.	
	And pain for the Palladium there is borne."		"Now say to Fra Dolcino, then, to arm him,	55
65	"If they within those sparks possess the power		Thou, who perhaps wilt shortly see the sun,	
	To speak," I said, "thee, Master, much I pray,		If soon he wish not here to follow me,	
	And re-pray, that the prayer be worth a thousand,		So with provisions, that no stress of snow	
	That thou make no denial of awaiting		May give the victory to the Novarese,	
	Until the horned flame shall hither come;		Which otherwise to gain would not be easy."	60
	Thou seest that with desire I lean towards it."		After one foot to go away he lifted,	
70	And he to me: "Worthy is thy entreaty		This word did Mahomet say unto me,	
	Of much applause, and therefore I accept it;		Then to depart upon the ground he stretched it.	
	But take heed that thy tongue restrain itself.		Another one, who had his throat pierced through,	
	Leave me to speak, because I have conceived		And nose cut off close underneath the brows,	65
	That which thou wishest; for they might disdain		And had no longer but a single ear,	
75	Perchance, since they were Greeks, discourse of thine."		Staying to look in wonder with the others,	
	When now the flame had come unto that point,		Before the others did his gullet open,	
	Where to my Leader it seemed time and place,		Which outwardly was red in every part,	
	After this fashion did I hear him speak:		And said: "O thou, whom guilt doth not condemn,	70
	"O ye, who are twofold within one fire,		And whom I once saw up in Latian land,	
80	If I deserved of you, while I was living,		Unless too great similitude deceive me,	
	If I deserved of you or much or little		Call to remembrance Pier da Medicina,	
	When in the world I wrote the lofty verses,		If e'er thou see again the lovely plain	
	Do not move on, but one of you declare		That from Vercelli slopes to Marcabò,	75
L2[O]	Whither, being lost, he went away to die."		And make it known to the best two of Fano,	L2[O]
A	Then of the antique flame the greater horn,		To Messer Guido and Angiolello likewise,	A
	Murmuring, began to wave itself about		That if foreseeing here be not in vain,	
	Even as a flame doth which the wind fatigues.		Cast over from their vessel shall they be,	
	Thereafterward, the summit to and fro		And drowned near unto the Cattolica,	80
	Moving as if it were the tongue that spake		By the betrayal of a tyrant fell.	
90	It uttered forth a voice, and said: "When I	3 (2C)	Between the isles of Cyprus and Majorca	
	From Circe had departed, who concealed me		Neptune ne'er yet beheld so great a crime,	
	More than a year there near unto Gaëta,		Neither of pirates nor Argolic people.	
	Or ever yet Aenas named it so,		That traitor, who sees only with one eye,	85
	Nor fondness for my son, nor reverence		And holds the land, which some one here with me	
95	For my old father, nor the due affection		Would fain be fasting from the vision of,	
	Which joyous should have made Penelope,	3	Will make them come unto a parley with him;	
	Could overcome within me the desire		Then will do so, that to Focara's wind	
	I had to be experienced of the world,		They will not stand in need of vow or prayer."	90
	And of the vice and virtue of mankind;		And I to him: "Show to me and declare,	
26.100	But I put forth on the high open sea		If thou wouldst have me bear up news of thee,	
	With one sole ship, and that small company		Who is this person of the bitter vision."	
	By which I never had deserted been.		Then did he lay his hand upon the jaw	
	Both of the shores I saw as far as Spain,		Of one of his companions, and his mouth	95
	Far as Morocco, and the isle of Sardes,		Oped, crying: "This is he, and he speaks not.	
105	And the others which that sea bathes round about.	7	This one, being banished, every doubt submerged	
	I and my company were old and slow		In Caesar by affirming the forearmed	
	When at that narrow passage we arrived		Always with detriment allowed delay."	
250	♦		O how bewildered unto me appeared,	28.100
26.108	Where Hercules his landmarks set as signals,	88		100

28.101 With tongue asunder in his windpipe slit,
Curio, who in speaking was so bold!
And one, who both his hands dissevered had,
The stumps uplifting through the murky air,
105 So that the blood made horrible his face,
Cried out: "Thou shalt remember Mosca also,
Who said, alas! 'A thing done has an end!'
Which was an ill seed for the Tuscan people";
"And death unto thy race," thereto I added;
110 Whence he, accumulating woe on woe,
Departed, like a person sad and crazed.
But I remained to look upon the crowd;
And saw a thing which I should be afraid,
Without some further proof, even to recount,
115 If it were not that conscience reassures me,
That good companion which emboldens man
Beneath the hauberk of its feeling pure.
I truly saw, and still I seem to see it,
A trunk without a head walk in like manner
120 As walked the others of the mournful herd.
And by the hair it held the head dissevered,
Hung from the hand in fashion of a lantern,
And that upon us gazed and said: "O me!"
It of itself made to itself a lamp,
125 And they were two in one, and one in two;
L2[I] How that can be, He knows who so ordains it.
A When it was come close to the bridge's foot,
It lifted high its arm with all the head,
To bring more closely unto us its words,
130 Which were: "Behold now the sore penalty,
Thou, who dost breathing go the dead beholding;
Behold if any be as great as this.
And so that thou may carry news of me,
Know that Bertram de Born am I, the same
135 Who gave to the Young King the evil comfort.
I made the father and the son rebellious;
Achitophel not more with Absalom
And David did with his accursed goadings.
Because I parted persons so united,
140 Parted do I now bear my brain, alas!
From its beginning, which is in this trunk.
Thus is observed in me the counterpoise."

26 REJOICE, O Florence, since thou art so great,
That over sea and land thou beatest thy wings,
And throughout Hell thy name is spread abroad!
Among the thieves five citizens of thine
Like these I found, whence shame comes unto me,
And thou thereby to no great honor risest.
But if when morn is near our dreams are true,
Feel shalt thou in a little time from now

89 (55C)

4 (3C)

4

⑦

 A
89

What Prato, if none other, craves for thee. 26.9
And if it now were, it were not too soon;
Would that it were, seeing it needs must be,
For 't will aggrieve me more the more I age.
We went our way, and up along the stairs
The bourns had made us to descend before,
Remounted my Conductor and drew me. 15
And following the solitary path
Among the rocks and ridges of the crag,
The foot without the hand sped not at all.
Then sorrowed I, and sorrow now again,
When I direct my mind to what I saw, 20
And more my genius curb than I am wont,
That it may run not unless virtue guide it;
So that if some good star, or better thing,
Have given me good, I may myself not grudge it.
As many as the hind (who on the hill 25
Rests at the time when he who lights the world
His countenance keeps least concealed from us,
Whileas the fly gives place unto the gnat)
Seeth the glow-worms down along the valley,
Perchance there where he ploughs and makes his vintage 30
With flames as manifold resplendent all
Was the eighth Bolgia, as I grew aware
As soon as I was where the depth appeared.
And such as he who with the bears avenged him L2[I]
Beheld Elijah's chariot at departing, A
What time the steeds to heaven erect uprose,
For with his eye he could not follow it
So as to see aught else than flame alone,
Even as a little cloud ascending upward,
40 Thus each along the gorge of the intrenchment
Was moving; for not one reveals the theft,
And every flame a sinner steals away.
I stood upon the bridge uprisen to see,
So that, if I had seized not on a rock,
45 Down had I fallen without being pushed.
And the Leader, who beheld me so attent,
Exclaimed: "Within the fires the spirits are;
Each swathes himself with that wherewith he burns."
"My Master," I replied, "by hearing thee
I am more sure; but I surmised already 26.50
It might be so, and already wished to ask thee
Who is within that fire, which comes so cleft
At top, it seems uprising from the pyre
Where was Eteocles with his brother placed."
He answered me: "Within there are tormented
Ulysses and Diomed, and thus together
They unto vengeance run as unto wrath.
And there within their flame do they lament 26.58 200

25.81	Sudden and frequent, in the guise of lightning; Then breathed: "The love wherewith I am inflamed Towards the virtue still which followed me Unto the palm and issue of the field, 85 Wills that I breathe to thee that thou delight In her; and grateful to me is thy telling Whatever things Hope promises to thee." And I: "The ancient Scriptures and the new The mark establish, and this shows it me, 90 Of all the souls whom God hath made his friends. Isaiah saith, that each one garmented In his own land shall be with twofold garments, And his own land is this delightful life. Thy brother, too, far more explicitly, 95 There where he treateth of the robes of white, This revelation manifests to us." And first, and near the ending of these words, "Sperent in te" from over us was heard, To which responsive answered all the carols. 25.100 Thereafterward a light among them brightened, So that, if Cancer one such crystal had, Winter would have a month of one sole day. And as uprises, goes, and enters the dance A winsome maiden, only to do honor 105 To the new bride, and not from any failing, L1[O] Even thus did I behold the brightened splendor B Approach the two, who in a wheel revolved As was be seeming to their ardent love. Into the song and music there it entered; 110 And fixed on them my Lady kept her look, Even as a bride silent and motionless. "This is the one who lay upon the breast Of him our Pelican; and this is he To the great office from the cross elected." 115 My Lady thus; but therefore none the more Did move her sight from its attentive gaze A or B v P 0 w 7,000 Before or afterward these words of hers. Even as a man who gazes, and endeavours To see the eclipsing of the sun a little, 120 And who, by seeing, sightless doth become, So I became before that latest fire, While it was said, "Why dost thou daze thyself To see a thing which here hath no existence? Earth in the earth my body is, and shall be 125 ‡ With all the others there, until our number With the eternal proposition tallies. With the two garments in the blessed cloister Are the two lights alone that have ascended: And this shalt thou take back into your world." ♦ 25.130 And at this utterance the flaming circle	90 (56C)	I was a man of arms, then Cordelier, Believing thus begirt to make amends; And truly my belief had been fulfilled But for the High Priest, whom may ill betide, Who put me back into my former sins; And how and wherefore I will have thee hear. While I was still the form of bone and pulp My mother gave to me, the deeds I did Were not those of a lion, but a fox. 75 The machinations and the covert ways I knew them all, and practised so their craft, That to the ends of earth the sound went forth. When now unto that portion of mine age I saw myself arrived, when each one ought 80 To lower the sails, and coil away the ropes, That which before had pleased me then displeased me; And penitent and confessing I surrendered, Ah woe is me! and it would have bestead me; The Leader of the modern Pharisees 85 Having a war near unto Lateran, And not with Saracens nor with the Jews, For each one of his enemies was Christian, And none of them had been to conquer Acre, Nor merchandising in the Sultan's land, 90 Nor the high office, nor the sacred orders, In him regarded, nor in me that cord L1[O] Which used to make those girt with it more meagre; B But even as Constantine sought out Sylvester To cure his leprosy, within Soracte, 95 So this one sought me out as an adept To cure him of the fever of his pride. Counsel he asked of me, and I was silent, Because his words appeared inebriate. And then he said: 'Be not thy heart afraid; 27.100 Henceforth I thee absolve; and thou instruct me How to raze Palestrina to the ground. Heaven have I power to lock and to unlock, As thou dost know; therefore the keys are two, The which my predecessor held not dear.' 105 Then urged me on his weighty arguments There, where my silence was the worst advice; And said I: 'Father, since thou wastest me Of that sin into which I now must fall, The promise long with the fulfilment short 110 Will make thee triumph in thy lofty seat.' Francis came afterward, when I was dead, For me; but one of the black Cherubim Said to him: 'Take him not; do me no wrong; He must come down among my servitors, Because he gave the fraudulent advice 27.116 400
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27.117 From which time forth I have been at his hair;
For who repents not cannot be absolved,
Nor can one both repent and will at once,
120 Because of the contradiction which consents not.
O miserable me! how I did shudder
When he seized on me, saying: 'Peradventure
Thou didst not think that I was a logician!'
He bore me unto Minos, who entwined
125 Eight times his tail about his stubborn back,
And after he had bitten it in great rage,
Said: 'Of the thievish fire a culprit this;'
Wherefore, here where thou seest, am I lost,
And vested thus in going I bemoan me."
130 When it had thus completed its recital,
The flame departed uttering lamentations,
Writhing and flapping its sharp-pointed horn.
Onward we passed, both I and my Conductor,
Up o'er the crag above another arch,
Which the moat covers, where is paid the fee
27.136 By those who, sowing discord, win their burden.

25 **I**F e'er it happen that the Poem Sacred,
 To which both heaven and earth have set their hand,
 So that it many a year hath made me lean,
 O'ercome the cruelty that bars me out
 From the fair sheepfold, where a lamb I slumbered,
 An enemy to the wolves that war upon it,
 With other voice forthwith, with other fleece
 Poet will I return, and at my font
 Baptismal will I take the laurel crown;
 Because into the Faith that maketh known
 All souls to God there entered I, and then
 Peter for her sake thus my brow encircled.
 Thereafterward towards us moved a light
 Out of that band whence issued the first-fruits
 Which of his vicars Christ behind him left,
 And then my Lady, full of ecstasy,
 Said unto me: "Look, look! behold the Baron
 For whom below Galicia is frequented."
 In the same way as, when a dove alights
 Near his companion, both of them pour forth,
 Circling about and murmuring, their affection,
 So one beheld I by the other grand
 Prince glorified to be with welcome greeted,
 Lauding the food that there above is eaten.
 But when their gratulations were complete,
 Silently *coram me* each one stood still,
 So incandescent it o'ercame my sight.
 Smiling thereafterwards, said Beatrice:
 "Illustrious life, by whom the benefactions
 Of our Basilica have been described,

91 (57C)

6 (5C)

6

⑦

91 A

Make Hope resound within this altitude;	25.31
Thou knowest as oft thou dost personify it	
As Jesus to the three gave greater clearness." —	
"Lift up thy head, and make thyself assured;	
For what comes hither from the mortal world	35
Must needs be ripened in our radiance."	
This comfort came to me from the second fire;	
Wherefore mine eyes I lifted to the hills,	
Which bent them down before with too great weight.	
"Since, through his grace, our Emperor wills that thou	40
Shouldst find thee face to face, before thy death,	
In the most secret chamber, with his Counts,	
So that, the truth beholden of this court,	
Hope, which below there rightfully enamors,	
Thereby thou strengthen in thyself and others,	45
Say what it is, and how is flowering with it	
Thy mind, and say from whence it came to thee."	
Thus did the second light again continue.	
And the Compassionate, who piloted	
The plumage of my wings in such high flight,	25.50
Did in reply anticipate me thus:	
"No child whatever the Church Militant	
Of greater hope possesses, as is written	
In that Sun which irradiates all our band;	
Therefore it is conceded him from Egypt	55
To come into Jerusalem to see,	L1[I]
Or ever yet his warfare be completed.	B
The two remaining points, that not for knowledge	
Have been demanded, but that he report	
How much this virtue unto thee is pleasing,	60
To him I leave; for hard he will not find them,	
Nor of self-praise; and let him answer them;	
And may the grace of God in this assist him!"	
As a disciple, who his teacher follows,	
Ready and willing, where he is expert,	65
That his proficiency may be displayed,	
"Hope," said I, "is the certain expectation	
Of future glory, which is the effect	
Of grace divine and merit precedent.	
From many stars this light comes unto me;	70
But he instilled it first into my heart	
Who was chief singer unto the chief captain.	
' <i>Sperent in te</i> ,' in the high Theody	
He sayeth, 'those who know thy name'; and who	
Knoweth it not, if he my faith possess?	75
Thou didst instil me, then, with his instilling	
In the Epistle, so that I am full,	Divine
And upon others rain again your rain."	X
While I was speaking, in the living bosom	Comedy
Of that combustion quivered an effluence,	25.80

5 Like these I found, whence shame comes unto me,
And thou thereby to no great honor risest.
♦ But if when morn is near our dreams are true,
Feel shalt thou in a little time from now
What Prato, if none other, craves for thee.
10 And if it now were, it were not too soon;
Would that it were, seeing it needs must be,
For 't will aggrieve me more the more I age.
We went our way, and up along the stairs
The bourns had **made us** to descend **before**,
15 Remounted my Conductor and drew me.
And following the solitary path
Among the rocks and ridges of the crag,
The foot without the hand sped not at all.
Then sorrowed I, and sorrow now again,
20 When I direct my mind to what I saw,
And more my genius curb than I am wont,
That it may run not unless virtue guide it;
So that if some good star, or better thing,
Have given me good, I may myself not grudge it.
As many as the hind (who on the hill
L1[O] Rests at the time when he who lights the world
C His countenance keeps least concealed from us,
Whileas the fly gives place unto the gnat)
Seeth the glow-worms down along the valley,
30 Perchance there where he ploughs and makes his vintage
With flames as manifold resplendent all
Was the eighth Bolgia, as I grew aware
As soon as I was where the depth appeared.
And such as he who with the bears avenged him
35 Beheld Elijah's chariot at departing,
What time the steeds to heaven erect uprose,
For with his eye he could not follow it
So as to see aught else than flame alone,
Even as a little cloud ascending upward,
40 Thus each along the gorge of the intrenchment
Was moving; for not one reveals the theft,
And every flame a sinner steals away.
I stood upon the bridge uprisen to see,
So that, if I had seized not on a rock,
45 Down had I fallen without being pushed.
And the Leader, who beheld me so attent,
Exclaimed: "Within the fires the spirits are;
Each swathes himself with that wherewith he burns."
"My Master," I replied, "by hearing thee
26.50 I am more sure; but I surmised already
It might be so, and already wished to ask thee

Grew quiet, with the dulcet intermingling
Of sound that by the trinal breath was made,
As to escape from danger or fatigue
The oars that erst were in the water beaten
Are all suspended at a whistle's sound.
Ah, how much in my mind was I disturbed,
When I turned round to look on Beatrice,
That her I could not see, although I was
W Close at her side and in the Happy World!
HILE I was doubting for my vision quenched,
Out of the flame refulgent that had quenched it
Issued a breathing, that attentive made me,
Saying: "While thou recoverest the sense
Of seeing which in me thou hast consumed,
'T is well that speaking thou shouldst compensate it.
Begin then, and declare to what thy soul
Is aimed, and count it for a certainty,
Sight is in thee bewildered and not dead;
Because the Lady, who through this divine
Region conducteth thee, has in her look
The power the hand of Ananias had."
I said: "As pleaseth her, or soon or late
Let the cure come to eyes that portals were
When she with fire I ever burn with entered.
The Good, that gives contentment to this Court,
The Alpha and Omega is of all
The writing that love reads me low or loud."
The selfsame voice, that taken had from me
The terror of the sudden dazzlement,
20 To speak still farther put it in my thought;
And said: "In verity with finer sieve
Behoveth thee to sift; thee it behoveth
To say who aimed thy bow at such a target."
And I: "By philosophic arguments,
25 And by authority that hence descends,
Such love must needs imprint itself in me;
For Good, so far as good, when comprehended
Doth straight enkindle love, and so much greater
As more of goodness in itself it holds;
30 Then to that Essence (whose is such advantage
That every good which out of it is found
Is nothing but a ray of its own light)
More than elsewhither must the mind be moved
Of every one, in loving, who discerns
35 The truth in which this evidence is founded.
Such truth he to my intellect reveals
Who demonstrates to me the primal love
Of all the sempiternal substances.
The voice reveals it of the truthful Author,
Who says to Moses, speaking of Himself,

26.42 'I will make all my goodness pass before thee.'
 Thou too revealest it to me, beginning
 The loud Evangel, that proclaims the secret
 45 Of heaven to earth above all other edict."
 And I heard say: "By human intellect
 And by authority concordant with it,
 Of all thy loves reserve for God the highest.
 But say again if other cords thou feelest,
 26.50 Draw thee towards Him, that thou mayst proclaim
 With how many teeth this love is biting thee."
 The holy purpose of the Eagle of Christ
 Not latent was nay, rather I perceived
 Whither he fain would my profession lead.
 55 Therefore I recommenced: "All of those bites
 Which have the power to turn the heart to God
 Unto my charity have been concurrent.
 The being of the world, and my own being,
 The death which He endured that I may live,
 60 And that which all the faithful hope, as I do,
 With the forementioned vivid consciousness
 Have drawn me from the sea of love perverse,
 And of the right have placed me on the shore.
 The leaves, wherewith embowered is all the garden
 Of the Eternal Gardener, do I love
 As much as he has granted them of good."
 L1[I] As soon as I had ceased, a song most sweet
 C Throughout the heaven resounded, and my Lady
 Said with the others, "Holy, holy, holy!"
 70 And as at some keen light one wakes from sleep
 By reason of the visual spirit that runs
 Unto the splendor passed from coat to coat,
 And he who wakes abhorreth what he sees,
 8 So all unconscious is his sudden waking,
 Until the judgment cometh to his aid,
 75 So from before mine eyes did Beatrice
 Chase every mote with radiance of her own,
 That cast its light a thousand miles and more.
 Whence better after than before I saw,
 80 And in a kind of wonderment I asked
 About a fourth light that I saw with us.
 And said my Lady: "There within those rays
 Gazes upon its Maker the first soul
 That ever the first virtue did create."
 85 Even as the bough that downward bends its top
 At transit of the wind, and then is lifted
 By its own virtue, which inclines it upward,
 Likewise did I, the while that she was speaking,
 Being amazed, and then I was made bold
 By a desire to speak wherewith I burned.
 Divine X Comedy ♦ 650 26.91 And I began: "O apple, that mature

93

8

8

7



93

Out of the flame refulgent that had quenched it
 Issued a breathing, that attentive made me,
 Saying: "While thou recoverest the sense
 5 Of seeing which in me thou hast consumed,
 'T is well that speaking thou shouldst compensate it.
 Begin then, and declare to what thy soul
 Is aimed, and count it for a certainty,
 Sight is in thee bewildered and not dead;
 10 Because the Lady, who through this divine
 Region conducteth thee, has in her look
 The power the hand of Ananias had."
 I said: "As pleaseth her, or soon or late
 Let the cure come to eyes that portals were
 15 When she with fire I ever burn with entered.
 The Good, that gives contentment to this Court,
 The Alpha and Omega is of all
 The writing that love reads me low or loud."
 The selfsame voice, that taken had from me
 20 The terror of the sudden dazzlement,
 To speak still farther put it in my thought;
 And said: "In verity with finer sieve
 Behoveth thee to sift; thee it behoveth
 To say who aimed thy bow at such a target."
 And I: "By philosophic arguments,
 25 And by authority that hence descends,
 Such love must needs imprint itself in me;
 For Good, so far as good, when comprehended
 C Doth straight enkindle love, and so much greater
 As more of goodness in itself it holds;
 30 Then to that Essence (whose is such advantage
 That every good which out of it is found
 Is nothing but a ray of its own light)
 More than elsewhere must the mind be moved
 Of every one, in loving, who discerns
 35 The truth in which this evidence is founded.
 Such truth he to my intellect reveals
 Who demonstrates to me the primal love
 Of all the sempiternal substances.
 The voice reveals it of the truthful Author,
 40 Who says to Moses, speaking of Himself,
 'I will make all my goodness pass before thee.'
 Thou too revealest it to me, beginning
 The loud Evangel, that proclaims the secret
 Of heaven to earth above all other edict."
 45 And I heard say: "By human intellect
 And by authority concordant with it,
 Of all thy loves reserve for God the highest.
 But say again if other cords thou feelest,
 Draw thee towards Him, that thou mayst proclaim
 With how many teeth this love is biting thee."

5

10

15

20

25

L1[I]

C

30

35

40

45

Divine
X
Comedy

26.50

26.51

27.100 Its parts exceeding full of life and lofty
 Divine X Are all so uniform, I cannot say
 Comedy Which Beatrice selected for my place.
 But she, who was aware of my desire,
 Began, the while she smiled so joyously
 105 That God seemed in her countenance to rejoice:
 "The nature of that motion, which keeps quiet
 The centre, and all the rest about it moves,
 From hence begins as from **its starting point**.
 And in this heaven there is no other Where
 110 Than in the Mind Divine, wherein is kindled
 The love that turns it, and the power it rains.
 Within a circle light and love embrace it,
 Even as this doth the others, and that precinct
 He who encircles it alone controls.
 115 Its motion is not by another meted,
 But **all the others measured are by this**,
 As ten is by the half and by the fifth.
 And in what manner time in such a pot
 May have its roots, and in the rest its leaves,
 120 Now unto thee can manifest be made.
 O Covetousness, that mortals dost ingulf
 Beneath thee so, that no one hath the power
 Of drawing back his eyes from out thy waves!
 Full fairly blossoms in mankind the will;
 L2[O] But the uninterrupted rain converts
 C Into abortive wildings the true plums.
 Fidelity and innocence are found
 Only in children; afterwards they both
 Take flight or e'er the cheeks with down are covered.
 130 One, while he prattles still, observes the fasts,
 Who, when his tongue is loosed, forthwith devours
 Whatever food under whatever moon;
 Another, while he prattles, loves and listens
 Unto his mother, who when speech is perfect
 135 Forthwith desires to see her in her grave.
 Even thus is swarthy made the skin so white
 In its first aspect of the daughter fair
 Of him who brings the morn, and leaves the night.
 Thou, that it may not be a marvel to thee,
 140 Think that on earth there is no one who governs;
 Whence goes astray the human family.
 Ere January be unwintered wholly
 By the centesimal on earth neglected,
 Shall these supernal circles roar so loud
 145 The tempest that has been so long awaited
 Shall whirl the poops about where are the prows;
 So that the fleet shall run its course direct,

94

Alone hast been produced, O ancient father,
 To whom each wife is daughter and daughter-in-law,
 Devoutly as I can I supplicate thee
 That thou wouldst speak to me; thou seest my wish;
 And I, to hear thee quickly, speak it not."
 Sometimes an animal, when covered, struggles
 So that his impulse needs must be apparent,
 By reason of the wrappage following it;
 And in like manner the primeval soul
 26.100 Made clear to me athwart its covering
 How jubilant it was to give me pleasure.
 Then breathed: "Without thy uttering it to me,
 Thine inclination better I discern
 Than thou whatever thing is surest to thee;
 105 For I behold it in the truthful mirror,
 That of Himself all things parhelion makes,
 And none makes Him parhelion of itself.
 Thou fain wouldst hear how long ago God placed me
 Within the lofty garden, where this Lady
 110 Unto so long a stairway thee disposed.
 And how long to mine eyes it was a pleasure,
 And of the great disdain the proper cause,
 And the language that I used and that I made.
 Now, son of mine, the tasting of the tree
 115 Not in itself was cause of so great exile,
 But solely the o'erstepping of the bounds.
 L2[O] There, whence thy Lady moved Virgilius,
 C Four thousand and three hundred and two circuits
 Made by the sun, this Council I desired;
 120 And him I saw return to all the lights
 Of his highway nine hundred times and thirty,
 Whilst I upon the earth was tarrying.
 The language that I spake was quite extinct
 Before that in the work interminable
 125 The people under Nimrod were employed;
 For nevermore result of reasoning
 (Because of human pleasure that doth change,
 Obedient to the heavens) was durable.
 9 A natural action is it that man speaks;
 130 But whether thus or thus, doth nature leave
 To your own art, as seemeth best to you.
 Ere I descended to the infernal anguish,
El was on earth the name of the Chief Good,
 From whom comes all the joy that wraps me round;
 135 *Eli* he then was called, and that is proper,
 Because the use of men is like a leaf
 On bough, which goeth and another cometh.
 Upon the mount that highest o'er the wave
 Rises was I, in life or pure or sinful,
 From the first hour to that which is the second, 26.141

26.92

Divine
X
Comedy

95

26.100

105

110

115

L2[O]

C

120

125

130

135

9

9

7

A

94

849

27.148 ♦
26

W And the true fruit shall follow on the flower."
 WHILE I was doubting for my vision quenched,

700

26.142 As the sun changes quadrant, to the sixth.”
27 66 **G**LORY be to the Father, to the Son,
And Holy Ghost!” all Paradise began,
So that the melody inebriate made me.
What I beheld seemed unto me a smile
5 Of the universe; for my inebriation
Found entrance through the hearing and the sight
O joy! O gladness inexpressible!
O perfect life of love and peacefulness!
O riches without hankering secure!
10 Before mine eyes were standing the four torches
Enkindled, and the one that first had come
Began to make itself more luminous;
And even such in semblance it became
As Jupiter would become, if he and Mars
15 Were birds, and they should interchange their feathers.
That Providence, which here distributeth
Season and service, in the blessed choir
Had silence upon every side imposed.
When I heard say: “If I my color change,
20 Marvel not at it; for while I am speaking
Thou shalt behold all these their color change.
He who usurps upon the earth my place,
My place, my place, which vacant has become
Before the presence of the Son of God,
L2[I] Has of my cemetery made a sewer
C Of blood and stench, whereby the Perverse One,
Who fell from here, below there is appeased!”
With the same color which, through sun adverse,
Painteth the clouds at evening or at morn,
30 Beheld I then the whole of heaven suffused.
And as a modest woman, who abides
Sure of herself, and at another’s failing,
From listening only, timorous becomes,
Even thus did Beatrice change countenance;
35 And I believe in heaven was such eclipse,
When suffered the supreme Omnipotence;
Thereafterward proceeded forth his words
With voice so much transmuted from itself,
The very countenance was not more changed.
40 “The spouse of Christ has never nurtured been
On blood of mine, of Linus and of Cletus,
To be made use of in acqurest of gold;
But in acqurest of this delightful life
Sixtus and Pius, Urban and Calixtus,
45 After much lamentation, shed their blood.
Our purpose was not, that on the right hand
Of our successors should in part be seated
The Christian folk, in part upon the other;
Nor that the keys which were to me confided

Divine
x
Comedy

750
27.49

95 (58C)

10 (6C)

10

7

A
95

Should e’er become the escutcheon on a banner,
That should wage war on those who are baptized;
Nor I be made the figure of a seal
To privileges venal and mendacious,
Whereat I often redden and flash with fire.
In garb of shepherds the rapacious wolves
55 Are seen from here above o’er all the pastures!
O wrath of God, why dost thou slumber still?
To drink our blood the Caorsines and Gascons
Are making ready. O thou good beginning,
Unto how vile an end must thou needs fall!
60 But the high Providence, that with Scipio
At Rome the glory of the world defended,
Will speedily bring aid, as I conceive;
And thou, my son, who by thy mortal weight
Shalt down return again, open thy mouth;
65 What I conceal not, do not thou conceal.’
As with its frozen vapors downward falls
In flakes our atmosphere, what time the horn
Of the celestial Goat doth touch the sun,
Upward in such array saw I the ether
70 Become, and flaked with the triumphant vapors,
Which there together with us had remained.
My sight was following up their semblances,
And followed till the medium, by excess,
The passing farther onward took from it;
L2[I] Whereat the Lady, who beheld me freed
C From gazing upward, said to me: “Cast down
Thy sight, and see how far thou art turned round.”
Since the first time that I had downward looked,
80 I saw that I had moved through the whole arc
Which the first climate makes from midst to end;
So that I saw the mad track of Ulysses
Past Gades, and this side, well nigh the shore
Whereon became Europa a sweet burden.
85 And of this threshing-floor the site to me
Were more unveiled, but the sun was proceeding
Under my feet, a sign and more removed.
My mind enamored, which is dallying
At all times with my Lady, to bring back
To her mine eyes was more than ever ardent.
90 And if or Art or Nature has made bait
To catch the eyes and so possess the mind,
In human flesh or in its portraiture,
All joined together would appear as nought
To the divine delight which shone upon me
95 When to her smiling face I turned me round.
The virtue that her look endowed me with
From the fair nest of Leda tore me forth,
And up into the swiftest heaven impelled me.

27.50

55

60

65

70

L2[I]

C

80

85

90

95

Divine
x
Comedy

27.99
800

27.17 Up through the point, giving it that vibration
Divine X Comedy
20 The tongue had given them in their passage out,
We heard it said: "O thou, at whom I aim
My voice, and who but now wast speaking Lombard,
Saying, 'Now go thy way, no more I urge thee,'
Because I come perchance a little late,
To stay and speak with me let it not irk thee;
Thou seest it irks not me, and I am burning.
25 If thou but lately into this blind world
Hast fallen down from that sweet Latian land,
Wherefrom I bring the whole of my transgression,
Say, if the Romagnuoli have peace or war,
For I was from the mountains there between
Urbino and the yoke whence Tiber bursts."
30 I still was downward bent and listening,
When my Conductor touched me on the side,
Saying: "Speak thou: this one a Latian is."
And I, who had beforehand my reply
35 In readiness, forthwith began to speak:
"O soul, that down below there art concealed,
Romagna thine is not and never has been
Without war in the bosom of its tyrants;
But open war I none have left there now.
40 Ravenna stands as it long years has stood;
The Eagle of Polenta there is brooding,
So that she covers Cervia with her vans.
L1[O] A The city which once made the long resistance,
And of the French a sanguinary heap,
45 Beneath the Green Paws finds itself again;
Verrucchio's ancient Mastiff and the new,
Who made such bad disposal of Montagna,
Where they are wont make wimbles of their teeth.
The cities of Lamone and Santerno
27.50 Governs the Lioncel of the white lair,
Who changes sides 'twixt summer-time and winter;
And that of which the Savio bathes the flank,
Even as it lies between the plain and mountain,
Lives between tyranny and a free state.
55 Now I entreat thee tell us who thou art;
Be not more stubborn than the rest have been,
So may thy name hold front there in the world."
After the fire a little more had roared
In its own fashion, the sharp point it moved
60 This way and that, and then gave forth such breath:
"If I believed that my reply were made
To one who to the world would e'er return,
This flame without more flickering would stand still;
But inasmuch as never from this depth
Did any one return, if I hear true,
Without the fear of infamy I answer,

96
86

7
X^B

LONGFELLOW
DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY



EPIC POEM
.ORG
DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

26
26

2L A 28, 26, 27.66
3L B 27.67, 25.130
2L C 25.131, 26, 27

QUICK START

28	[1]	25	[421]
26	[193]	26	[560]
27	[285]	27	[702]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Inferno	28: 142	26: 142	27: 136 = 420
Paradiso	25: 139	26: 142	27: 148 = 429

B
B

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti descend I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.

Inferno tri-Canti descend;
Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;
Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

X^B

7

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EPICPOEM.ORG 849 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

PRINT
2-SIDED:
96 to 105

7

96

28 **W**HO ever could, e'en with untrammelled words,
 Tell of the blood and of the wounds in full
 Which now I saw, by many times narrating?
 Each tongue would for a certainty fall short
 5 By reason of our speech and memory,
 That have small room to comprehend so much.
 If were again assembled all the people
 Which formerly upon the fateful land
 Of Puglia were lamenting for their blood
 10 Shed by the Romans and the lingering war
 That of the rings made such illustrious spoils,
 As Livy has recorded, who errs not,
 With those who felt the agony of blows
 By making counterstand to Robert Guiscard,
 15 And all the rest, whose bones are gathered still
 At Ceperano, where a renegade
 Was each Apulian, and at Tagliacozzo,
 Where without arms the old Alardo conquered,
 And one his limb transpierced, and one lopped off,
 20 Should show, it would be nothing to compare
 With the disgusting mode of the ninth Bolgia.
 A cask by losing centre-piece or cant
 Was never shattered so, as I saw one
 Rent from the chin to where one breaketh wind.
 25 Between his legs were hanging down his entrails;
L1[I] His heart was visible, and the dismal sack
A That maketh excrement of what is eaten.
 While I was all absorbed in seeing him,
 He looked at me, and opened with his hands
 30 His bosom, saying: "See now how I rend me;
 How mutilated, see, is Mahomet;
 In front of me doth Ali weeping go,
 2 (1C) Cleft in the face from forelock unto chin;
 And all the others whom thou here beholdest,
 35 Disseminators of scandal and of schism
 While living were, and therefore are cleft thus.
 A devil is behind here, who doth cleave us
 Thus cruelly, unto the falchion's edge
 Putting again each one of all this ream,
 40 When we have gone around the doleful road;
 By reason that our wounds are closed again
 Ere any one in front of him repass.
 But who art thou, that musest on the crag,
 Perchance to postpone going to the pain
 45 That is adjudged upon thine accusations?"
 "Nor death hath reached him yet, nor guilt doth bring him,"
 My Master made reply, "to be tormented;
 But to procure him full experience,
 Divine **X** Comedy ♦
 50 28.50 Me, who am dead, behoves it to conduct him
 Down here through Hell, from circle unto circle;

97 (59C)

87 (53C)

2 (1C)

2

87

⑦

 B

97

That man no farther onward should adventure.
 On the right hand behind me left I Seville,
 And on the other already had left Ceuta.
 'O brothers, who amid a hundred thousand
 Perils,' I said, 'have come unto the West,
 To this so inconsiderable vigil
 Which is remaining of your senses still,
 115 Be ye unwilling to deny the knowledge,
 Following the sun, of the unpeopled world.
 Consider ye the seed from which ye sprang;
 Ye were not made to live like unto brutes,
 But for pursuit of virtue and of knowledge.'
 120 So eager did I render my companions,
 With this brief exhortation, for the voyage,
 That then I hardly could have held them back.
 And having turned our stern unto the morning,
 We of the oars made wings for our mad flight,
 125 Evermore gaining on the larboard side.
 Already all the stars of the other pole
 The night beheld, and ours so very low
 It did not rise above the ocean floor.
 Five times rekindled and as many quenched
 130 Had been the splendor underneath the moon,
 Since we had entered into the deep pass,
 When there appeared to us a mountain, dim
 From distance, and it seemed to me so high
L1[I] As I had never any one beheld.
A Joyful were we, and soon it turned to weeping;
 For out of the new land a whirlwind rose,
 And smote upon the fore part of the ship.
 Three times it made her whirl with all the waters,
 At the fourth time it made the stern uplift,
 140 And the prow downward go, as pleased Another,
 Until the sea above us closed again."

A **L**READY was the flame erect and quiet,
 To speak no more, and now departed from us
 With the permission of the gentle Poet;
 When yet another, which behind it came,
 Caused us to turn our eyes upon its top
 5 By a confused sound that issued from it.
 As the Sicilian bull (that bellowed first
 With the lament of him, and that was right,
 Who with his file had modulated it)
 Bellowed so with the voice of the afflicted,
 10 That, notwithstanding it was made of brass,
 Still it appeared with agony transfixed;
 Thus, by not having any way or issue
 At first from out the fire, to its own language
 Converted were the melancholy words.
 But afterwards, when they had gathered way

26.109

115

120

125

130

L1[I]

A

140

26.142

27

5

10

Divine
X
Comedy

27.16

300

26.59	The ambush of the horse, which made the door	98 (60C)	And this is true as that I speak to thee.”	28.51
Divine X Comedy	Whence issued forth the Romans’ gentle seed;	88 (54C)	More than a hundred were there when they heard him,	Divine X Comedy
	Therein is wept the craft, for which being dead		Who in the moat stood still to look at me,	
	Deidamia still deplores Achilles,		Through wonderment oblivious of their torture.	
	And pain for the Palladium there is borne.”		“Now say to Fra Dolcino, then, to arm him,	55
65	“If they within those sparks possess the power		Thou, who perhaps wilt shortly see the sun,	
	To speak,” I said, “thee, Master, much I pray,		If soon he wish not here to follow me,	
	And re-pray, that the prayer be worth a thousand,		So with provisions, that no stress of snow	
	That thou make no denial of awaiting		May give the victory to the Novarese,	
	Until the hornèd flame shall hither come;		Which otherwise to gain would not be easy.”	60
	Thou seest that with desire I lean towards it.”		After one foot to go away he lifted,	
70	And he to me: “Worthy is thy entreaty		This word did Mahomet say unto me,	
	Of much applause, and therefore I accept it;		Then to depart upon the ground he stretched it.	
	But take heed that thy tongue restrain itself.		Another one, who had his throat pierced through,	
	Leave me to speak, because I have conceived		And nose cut off close underneath the brows,	65
	That which thou wishest; for they might disdain		And had no longer but a single ear,	
75	Perchance, since they were Greeks, discourse of thine.”		Staying to look in wonder with the others,	
	When now the flame had come unto that point,		Before the others did his gullet open,	
	Where to my Leader it seemed time and place,		Which outwardly was red in every part,	
	After this fashion did I hear him speak:		And said: “O thou, whom guilt doth not condemn,	70
	“O ye, who are twofold within one fire,		And whom I once saw up in Latian land,	
80	If I deserved of you, while I was living,		Unless too great similitude deceive me,	
	If I deserved of you or much or little		Call to remembrance Pier da Medicina,	
	When in the world I wrote the lofty verses,		If e’er thou see again the lovely plain	
	Do not move on, but one of you declare		That from Vercelli slopes to Marcabò,	75
L2[O]	Whither, being lost, he went away to die.”		And make it known to the best two of Fano,	L2[O]
A	Then of the antique flame the greater horn,		To Messer Guido and Angiolello likewise,	A
	Murmuring, began to wave itself about		That if foreseeing here be not in vain,	
	Even as a flame doth which the wind fatigues.		Cast over from their vessel shall they be,	
	Thereafterward, the summit to and fro		And drowned near unto the Cattolica,	80
	Moving as if it were the tongue that spake		By the betrayal of a tyrant fell.	
90	It uttered forth a voice, and said: “When I	3 (2C)	Between the isles of Cyprus and Majorca	
	From Circe had departed, who concealed me		Neptune ne’er yet beheld so great a crime,	
	More than a year there near unto Gaëta,		Neither of pirates nor Argolic people.	
	Or ever yet Aenas named it so,		That traitor, who sees only with one eye,	85
	Nor fondness for my son, nor reverence		And holds the land, which some one here with me	
95	For my old father, nor the due affection		Would fain be fasting from the vision of,	
	Which joyous should have made Penelope,	3	Will make them come unto a parley with him;	
	Could overcome within me the desire		Then will do so, that to Focara’s wind	
	I had to be experienced of the world,		They will not stand in need of vow or prayer.”	90
	And of the vice and virtue of mankind;		And I to him: “Show to me and declare,	
26.100	But I put forth on the high open sea		If thou wouldst have me bear up news of thee,	
	With one sole ship, and that small company	88	Who is this person of the bitter vision.”	
	By which I never had deserted been.		Then did he lay his hand upon the jaw	
	Both of the shores I saw as far as Spain,		Of one of his companions, and his mouth	95
	Far as Morocco, and the isle of Sardes,		Oped, crying: “This is he, and he speaks not.	
105	And the others which that sea bathes round about.	⑦	This one, being banished, every doubt submerged	
	I and my company were old and slow		In Caesar by affirming the forearmed	
	When at that narrow passage we arrived	B	Always with detriment allowed delay.”	
250	♦		O how bewildered unto me appeared,	28.100
26.108	Where Hercules his landmarks set as signals,	98		100

28.101	With tongue asunder in his windpipe slit, Curio, who in speaking was so bold!	99 (61C)	What Prato, if none other, craves for thee.	26.9
	And one, who both his hands dissevered had, The stumps uplifting through the murky air,	89 (55C)	And if it now were, it were not too soon; Would that it were, seeing it needs must be, For 't will aggrieve me more the more I age.	
105	So that the blood made horrible his face, Cried out: "Thou shalt remember Mosca also, Who said, alas! 'A thing done has an end!' Which was an ill seed for the Tuscan people"; "And death unto thy race," thereto I added;		We went our way, and up along the stairs The bourns had made us to descend before, Remounted my Conductor and drew me.	15
110	Whence he, accumulating woe on woe, Departed, like a person sad and crazed. But I remained to look upon the crowd; And saw a thing which I should be afraid, Without some further proof, even to recount,		And following the solitary path Among the rocks and ridges of the crag, The foot without the hand sped not at all. Then sorrowed I, and sorrow now again, When I direct my mind to what I saw,	20
115	If it were not that conscience reassures me, That good companion which emboldens man Beneath the hauberk of its feeling pure. I truly saw, and still I seem to see it, A trunk without a head walk in like manner		That it may run not unless virtue guide it; So that if some good star, or better thing, Have given me good, I may myself not grudge it. As many as the hind (who on the hill Rests at the time when he who lights the world His countenance keeps least concealed from us, Whileas the fly gives place unto the gnat) Seeth the glow-worms down along the valley, Perchance there where he ploughs and makes his vintage	25
120	As walked the others of the mournful herd. And by the hair it held the head dissevered, Hung from the hand in fashion of a lantern, And that upon us gazed and said: "O me!" It of itself made to itself a lamp,		With flames as manifold resplendent all Was the eighth Bolgia, as I grew aware As soon as I was where the depth appeared. And such as he who with the bears avenged him Beheld Elijah's chariot at departing,	30
125	And they were two in one, and one in two; L2[I] How that can be, He knows who so ordains it. A When it was come close to the bridge's foot, It lifted high its arm with all the head, To bring more closely unto us its words,		What time the steeds to heaven erect uprose, For with his eye he could not follow it So as to see aught else than flame alone, Even as a little cloud ascending upward, Thus each along the gorge of the intrenchment Was moving; for not one reveals the theft, And every flame a sinner steals away.	L2[I] A
130	Which were: "Behold now the sore penalty, Thou, who dost breathing go the dead beholding; Behold if any be as great as this. And so that thou may carry news of me, Know that Bertram de Born am I, the same	4 (3C)	I stood upon the bridge uprisen to see, So that, if I had seized not on a rock, Down had I fallen without being pushed.	40
135	Who gave to the Young King the evil comfort. I made the father and the son rebellious; Achitophel not more with Absalom And David did with his accursed goadings. Because I parted persons so united,	4	And the Leader, who beheld me so attent, Exclaimed: "Within the fires the spirits are; Each swathes himself with that wherewith he burns." "My Master," I replied, "by hearing thee I am more sure; but I surmised already It might be so, and already wished to ask thee Who is within that fire, which comes so cleft At top, it seems uprising from the pyre Where was Eteocles with his brother placed." He answered me: "Within there are tormented Ulysses and Diomed, and thus together They unto vengeance run as unto wrath. And there within their flame do they lament	45
140	Parted do I now bear my brain, alas! From its beginning, which is in this trunk. Thus is observed in me the counterpoise."			
28.142	26 REJOICE, O Florence, since thou art so great, That over sea and land thou beatest thy wings, And throughout Hell thy name is spread abroad! Among the thieves five citizens of thine Like these I found, whence shame comes unto me, And thou thereby to no great honor risest. But if when morn is near our dreams are true, Feel shalt thou in a little time from now	89		26.50
		7		
Divine X Comedy		B	Divine X Comedy	200
051	26.8	99	26.58	

25.81	Sudden and frequent, in the guise of lightning;	100 (62C)	I was a man of arms, then Cordelier,	27.67
Divine X Comedy	Then breathed: "The love wherewith I am inflamed	90 (56C)	Believing thus begirt to make amends;	Divine X Comedy
	Towards the virtue still which followed me		And truly my belief had been fulfilled	70
85	Unto the palm and issue of the field,		But for the High Priest, whom may ill betide,	
	Wills that I breathe to thee that thou delight		Who put me back into my former sins;	
	In her; and grateful to me is thy telling		And how and wherefore I will have thee hear.	
	Whatever things Hope promises to thee."		While I was still the form of bone and pulp	
	And I: "The ancient Scriptures and the new		My mother gave to me, the deeds I did	
	The mark establish, and this shows it me,		Were not those of a lion, but a fox.	75
90	Of all the souls whom God hath made his friends.		The machinations and the covert ways	
	Isaiah saith, that each one garmented		I knew them all, and practised so their craft,	
	In his own land shall be with twofold garments,		That to the ends of earth the sound went forth.	
	And his own land is this delightful life.		When now unto that portion of mine age	
	Thy brother, too, far more explicitly,		I saw myself arrived, when each one ought	80
95	There where he treateth of the robes of white,		To lower the sails, and coil away the ropes,	
	This revelation manifests to us."		That which before had pleased me then displeased me;	
	And first, and near the ending of these words,		And penitent and confessing I surrendered,	
	" <i>Sperent in te</i> " from over us was heard,		Ah woe is me! and it would have bestead me;	
	To which responsive answered all the carols.		The Leader of the modern Pharisees	85
25.100	Thereafterward a light among them brightened,		Having a war near unto Lateran,	
	So that, if Cancer one such crystal had,		And not with Saracens nor with the Jews,	
	Winter would have a month of one sole day.		For each one of his enemies was Christian,	
	And as uprises, goes, and enters the dance		And none of them had been to conquer Acre,	
	A winsome maiden, only to do honor		Nor merchandising in the Sultan's land,	90
105	To the new bride, and not from any failing,		Nor the high office, nor the sacred orders,	
L1[O]	Even thus did I behold the brightened splendor		In him regarded, nor in me that cord	L1[O]
B	Approach the two, who in a wheel revolved		Which used to make those girt with it more meagre;	B
	As was beseeming to their ardent love.		But even as Constantine sought out Sylvester	
	Into the song and music there it entered;		To cure his leprosy, within Soracte,	95
110	And fixed on them my Lady kept her look,		So this one sought me out as an adept	
	Even as a bride silent and motionless.		To cure him of the fever of his pride.	
	"This is the one who lay upon the breast	5 (4C)	Counsel he asked of me, and I was silent,	
	Of him our Pelican; and this is he		Because his words appeared inebriate.	
	To the great office from the cross elected."		And then he said: 'Be not thy heart afraid;	27.100
115	My Lady thus; but therefore none the more		Henceforth I thee absolve; and thou instruct me	
	Did move her sight from its attentive gaze		How to raze Palestrina to the ground.	
A or B v P 0 w 7,000	Before or afterward these words of hers.		Heaven have I power to lock and to unlock,	
	Even as a man who gazes, and endeavours		As thou dost know; therefore the keys are two,	
	To see the eclipsing of the sun a little,	5	The which my predecessor held not dear.'	105
120	And who, by seeing, sightless doth become,		Then urged me on his weighty arguments	
	So I became before that latest fire,		There, where my silence was the worst advice;	
	While it was said, "Why dost thou daze thyself		And said I: 'Father, since thou washest me	
	To see a thing which here hath no existence?		Of that sin into which I now must fall,	
	Earth in the earth my body is, and shall be	90	The promise long with the fulfilment short	110
125	‡ With all the others there, until our number		Will make thee triumph in thy lofty seat.'	
	With the eternal proposition tallies.		Francis came afterward, when I was dead,	
	With the two garments in the blessed cloister	⑦	For me; but one of the black Cherubim	
	Are the two lights alone that have ascended:		Said to him: 'Take him not; do me no wrong;	
♦	And this shalt thou take back into your world."		He must come down among my servitors,	
055	25.130 And at this utterance the flaming circle	100	Because he gave the fraudulent advice	27.116 400

27.117	From which time forth I have been at his hair; For who repents not cannot be absolved, Nor can one both repent and will at once,	101 (63C)	Make Hope resound within this altitude;	25.31
120	Because of the contradiction which consents not. O miserable me! how I did shudder When he seized on me, saying: 'Peradventure Thou didst not think that I was a logician!' He bore me unto Minos, who entwined	91 (57C)	Thou knowest as oft thou dost personify it As Jesus to the three gave greater clearness." — "Lift up thy head, and make thyself assured; For what comes hither from the mortal world	35
125	Eight times his tail about his stubborn back, And after he had bitten it in great rage, Said: 'Of the thievish fire a culprit this;' Wherefore, here where thou seest, am I lost, And vested thus in going I bemoan me."		This comfort came to me from the second fire; Wherefore mine eyes I lifted to the hills, Which bent them down before with too great weight. "Since, through his grace, our Emperor wills that thou	40
130	When it had thus completed its recital, The flame departed uttering lamentations, Writhing and flapping its sharp-pointed horn. Onward we passed, both I and my Conductor, Up o'er the crag above another arch, Which the moat covers, where is paid the fee		Shouldst find thee face to face, before thy death, In the most secret chamber, with his Counts, So that, the truth beholden of this court, Hope, which below there rightfully enamors, Thereby thou strengthen in thyself and others, Say what it is, and how is flowering with it Thy mind, and say from whence it came to thee." Thus did the second light again continue. And the Compassionate, who piloted	45
27.136	By those who, sowing discord, win their burden.		The plumage of my wings in such high flight,	25.50
25	I F e'er it happen that the Poem Sacred, To which both heaven and earth have set their hand, So that it many a year hath made me lean, O'ercome the cruelty that bars me out		Did in reply anticipate me thus: "No child whatever the Church Militant Of greater hope possesses, as is written In that Sun which irradiates all our band; Therefore it is conceded him from Egypt	55
L1[I]	From the fair sheepfold, where a lamb I slumbered, An enemy to the wolves that war upon it, With other voice forthwith, with other fleece Poet will I return, and at my font Baptismal will I take the laurel crown;		To come into Jerusalem to see, Or ever yet his warfare be completed.	L1[I]
10	Because into the Faith that maketh known All souls to God there entered I, and then Peter for her sake thus my brow encircled. Thereafterward towards us moved a light Out of that band whence issued the first-fruits Which of his vicars Christ behind him left, And then my Lady, full of ecstasy, Said unto me: "Look, look! behold the Baron For whom below Galicia is frequented." In the same way as, when a dove alights	6 (5C)	The two remaining points, that not for knowledge Have been demanded, but that he report How much this virtue unto thee is pleasing, To him I leave; for hard he will not find them, Nor of self-praise; and let him answer them; And may the grace of God in this assist him!" As a disciple, who his teacher follows, Ready and willing, where he is expert,	60
15	Near his companion, both of them pour forth, Circling about and murmuring, their affection, So one beheld I by the other grand Prince glorified to be with welcome greeted, Lauding the food that there above is eaten.	6	Of future glory, which is the effect Of grace divine and merit precedent. From many stars this light comes unto me;	65
20	But when their gratulations were complete, Silently <i>coram me</i> each one stood still, So incandescent it o'ercame my sight. Smiling thereafterwards, said Beatrice: "Illustrious life, by whom the benefactions	91	But he instilled it first into my heart Who was chief singer unto the chief captain. ' <i>Sperent in te</i> ,' in the high Theody He sayeth, 'those who know thy name'; and who Knoweth it not, if he my faith possess?	70
25	Of our Basilica have been described,	7	Thou didst instil me, then, with his instilling In the Epistle, so that I am full, And upon others rain again your rain." While I was speaking, in the living bosom Of that combustion quivered an effluence,	75
Divine X Comedy				Divine X Comedy
450	25.30			500

26.42 'I will make all my goodness pass before thee.'
 Thou too revealest it to me, beginning
 The loud Evangel, that proclaims the secret
 45 Of heaven to earth above all other edict."
 And I heard say: "By human intellect
 And by authority concordant with it,
 Of all thy loves reserve for God the highest.
 But say again if other cords thou feelest,
 26.50 Draw thee towards Him, that thou mayst proclaim
 With how many teeth this love is biting thee."
 The holy purpose of the Eagle of Christ
 Not latent was nay, rather I perceived
 Whither he fain would my profession lead.
 55 Therefore I recommenced: "All of those bites
 Which have the power to turn the heart to God
 Unto my charity have been concurrent.
 The being of the world, and my own being,
 The death which He endured that I may live,
 60 And that which all the faithful hope, as I do,
 With the forementioned vivid consciousness
 Have drawn me from the sea of love perverse,
 And of the right have placed me on the shore.
 The leaves, wherewith embowered is all the garden
 Of the Eternal Gardener, do I love
 As much as he has granted them of good."
 L1[I] As soon as I had ceased, a song most sweet
 C Throughout the heaven resounded, and my Lady
 Said with the others, "Holy, holy, holy!"
 70 And as at some keen light one wakes from sleep
 By reason of the visual spirit that runs
 Unto the splendor passed from coat to coat,
 And he who wakes abhorreth what he sees,
 8 So all unconscious is his sudden waking,
 75 Until the judgment cometh to his aid,
 So from before mine eyes did Beatrice
 Chase every mote with radiance of her own,
 That cast its light a thousand miles and more.
 Whence better after than before I saw,
 80 And in a kind of wonderment I asked
 About a fourth light that I saw with us.
 And said my Lady: "There within those rays
 Gazes upon its Maker the first soul
 That ever the first virtue did create."
 85 Even as the bough that downward bends its top
 At transit of the wind, and then is lifted
 By its own virtue, which inclines it upward,
 Likewise did I, the while that she was speaking,
 Being amazed, and then I was made bold
 By a desire to speak wherewith I burned.
 Divine X Comedy 650 ♦ 90
 26.91 And I began: "O apple, that mature

103

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B

103

That over sea and land thou beatest thy wings,
 And throughout Hell thy name is spread abroad!
 Among the thieves five citizens of thine
 Like these I found, whence shame comes unto me,
 5 And thou thereby to no great honor risest.
 But if when morn is near our dreams are true,
 ♦ Feel shalt thou in a little time from now
 What Prato, if none other, craves for thee.
 And if it now were, it were not too soon;
 10 Would that it were, seeing it needs must be,
 For 't will aggrieve me more the more I age.
 We went our way, and up along the stairs
 The bourns had made us to descend before,
 Remounted my Conductor and drew me.
 15 And following the solitary path
 Among the rocks and ridges of the crag,
 The foot without the hand sped not at all.
 Then sorrowed I, and sorrow now again,
 20 When I direct my mind to what I saw,
 And more my genius curb than I am wont,
 That it may run not unless virtue guide it;
 So that if some good star, or better thing,
 Have given me good, I may myself not grudge it.
 25 As many as the hind (who on the hill
 Rests at the time when he who lights the world
 His countenance keeps least concealed from us,
 L1[I] Whileas the fly gives place unto the gnat) C
 Seeth the glow-worms down along the valley,
 30 Perchance there where he ploughs and makes his vintage
 With flames as manifold resplendent all
 Was the eighth Bolgia, as I grew aware
 As soon as I was where the depth appeared.
 And such as he who with the bears avenged him
 Beheld Elijah's chariot at departing,
 35 What time the steeds to heaven erect uprose,
 For with his eye he could not follow it
 So as to see aught else than flame alone,
 Even as a little cloud ascending upward,
 40 Thus each along the gorge of the intrenchment
 Was moving; for not one reveals the theft,
 And every flame a sinner steals away.
 I stood upon the bridge uprisen to see,
 So that, if I had seized not on a rock,
 45 Down had I fallen without being pushed.
 And the Leader, who beheld me so attent,
 Exclaimed: "Within the fires the spirits are;
 Each swathes himself with that wherewith he burns."
 "My Master," I replied, "by hearing thee
 I am more sure; but I surmised already
 It might be so, and already wished to ask thee

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L1[I]

C

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Divine X Comedy

26.50

26.51

27.100	Its parts exceeding full of life and lofty	104	Alone hast been produced, O ancient father,	26.92
Divine X Comedy	Are all so uniform, I cannot say	94	To whom each wife is daughter and daughter-in-law,	Divine X Comedy
	Which Beatrice selected for my place.		Devoutly as I can I supplicate thee	95
	But she, who was aware of my desire,		That thou wouldst speak to me; thou seest my wish;	
	Began, the while she smiled so joyously		And I, to hear thee quickly, speak it not."	
105	That God seemed in her countenance to rejoice:		Sometimes an animal, when covered, struggles	
	"The nature of that motion, which keeps quiet		So that his impulse needs must be apparent,	
	The centre, and all the rest about it moves,		By reason of the wrappage following it;	
	From hence begins as from its starting point .		And in like manner the primeval soul	26.100
	And in this heaven there is no other Where		Made clear to me athwart its covering	
110	Than in the Mind Divine, wherein is kindled		How jubilant it was to give me pleasure.	
	The love that turns it, and the power it rains.		Then breathed: "Without thy uttering it to me,	
	Within a circle light and love embrace it,		Thine inclination better I discern	
	Even as this doth the others, and that precinct		Than thou whatever thing is surest to thee;	105
	He who encircles it alone controls.		For I behold it in the truthful mirror,	
115	Its motion is not by another meted,		That of Himself all things parhelion makes,	
	But all the others measured are by this ,		And none makes Him parhelion of itself.	
	As ten is by the half and by the fifth.		Thou fain wouldst hear how long ago God placed me	
	And in what manner time in such a pot		Within the lofty garden, where this Lady	110
	May have its roots, and in the rest its leaves,		Unto so long a stairway thee disposed.	
120	Now unto thee can manifest be made.		And how long to mine eyes it was a pleasure,	
	O Covetousness, that mortals dost ingulf		And of the great disdain the proper cause,	
	Beneath thee so, that no one hath the power		And the language that I used and that I made.	
	Of drawing back his eyes from out thy waves!		Now, son of mine, the tasting of the tree	115
	Full fairly blossoms in mankind the will;		Not in itself was cause of so great exile,	
L2[O]	But the uninterrupted rain converts		But solely the o'erstepping of the bounds.	L2[O]
C	Into abortive wildings the true plums.		There, whence thy Lady moved Virgilius,	C
	Fidelity and innocence are found		Four thousand and three hundred and two circuits	
	Only in children; afterwards they both		Made by the sun, this Council I desired;	120
	Take flight or e'er the cheeks with down are covered.		And him I saw return to all the lights	
130	One, while he prattles still, observes the fasts,	9	Of his highway nine hundred times and thirty,	
	Who, when his tongue is loosed, forthwith devours		Whilst I upon the earth was tarrying.	
	Whatever food under whatever moon;		The language that I spake was quite extinct	
	Another, while he prattles, loves and listens		Before that in the work interminable	125
	Unto his mother, who when speech is perfect		The people under Nimrod were employed;	
135	Forthwith desires to see her in her grave.		For nevermore result of reasoning	
	Even thus is swarthy made the skin so white		(Because of human pleasure that doth change,	
	In its first aspect of the daughter fair		Obedient to the heavens) was durable.	
	Of him who brings the morn, and leaves the night.	9	A natural action is it that man speaks;	130
	Thou, that it may not be a marvel to thee,		But whether thus or thus, doth nature leave	
140	Think that on earth there is no one who governs;		To your own art, as seemeth best to you.	
	Whence goes astray the human family.		Ere I descended to the infernal anguish,	
	Ere January be unwintered wholly		<i>El</i> was on earth the name of the Chief Good,	
	By the centesimal on earth neglected,	94	From whom comes all the joy that wraps me round;	135
	Shall these supernal circles roar so loud		<i>Eli</i> he then was called, and that is proper,	
145	The tempest that has been so long awaited		Because the use of men is like a leaf	
	Shall whirl the poops about where are the prows;	⑦	On bough, which goeth and another cometh.	
	So that the fleet shall run its course direct,		Upon the mount that highest o'er the wave	
27.148 ♦	R And the true fruit shall follow on the flower."		Rises was I, in life or pure or sinful,	140
26	R EJOICE, O Florence, since thou art so great,		From the first hour to that which is the second,	26.141
849		104		700

26.142	As the sun changes quadrant, to the sixth.”	105 (64C)	Should e’er become the escutcheon on a banner,	27.50
27	G LORY be to the Father, to the Son, And Holy Ghost!” all Paradise began, So that the melody inebriate made me. What I beheld seemed unto me a smile	95 (58C)	That should wage war on those who are baptized; Nor I be made the figure of a seal To privileges venal and mendacious, Whereat I often redden and flash with fire.	
5	Of the universe; for my inebriation Found entrance through the hearing and the sight O joy! O gladness inexpressible! O perfect life of love and peacefulness! O riches without hankering secure!		In garb of shepherds the rapacious wolves Are seen from here above o’er all the pastures! O wrath of God, why dost thou slumber still? To drink our blood the Caorsines and Gascons Are making ready. O thou good beginning, Unto how vile an end must thou needs fall!	55
10	Before mine eyes were standing the four torches Enkindled, and the one that first had come Began to make itself more luminous; And even such in semblance it became As Jupiter would become, if he and Mars		But the high Providence, that with Scipio At Rome the glory of the world defended, Will speedily bring aid, as I conceive; And thou, my son, who by thy mortal weight Shalt down return again, open thy mouth; What I conceal not, do not thou conceal.’	60
15	Were birds, and they should interchange their feathers. That Providence, which here distributeth Season and service, in the blessed choir Had silence upon every side imposed. When I heard say: “If I my color change,		As with its frozen vapors downward falls In flakes our atmosphere, what time the horn Of the celestial Goat doth touch the sun, Upward in such array saw I the ether	65
20	Marvel not at it; for while I am speaking Thou shalt behold all these their color change. He who usurps upon the earth my place, My place, my place, which vacant has become Before the presence of the Son of God,		Become, and flaked with the triumphant vapors, Which there together with us had remained. My sight was following up their semblances, And followed till the medium, by excess, The passing farther onward took from it; Whereat the Lady, who beheld me freed	27.70
L2[I]	Has of my cemetery made a sewer		From gazing upward, said to me: “Cast down Thy sight, and see how far thou art turned round.” Since the first time that I had downward looked, I saw that I had moved through the whole arc	L2[I]
C	Of blood and stench, whereby the Perverse One, Who fell from here, below there is appeased!” With the same color which, through sun adverse, Painteth the clouds at evening or at morn, Beheld I then the whole of heaven suffused.		Which the first climate makes from midst to end; So that I saw the mad track of Ulysses Past Gades, and this side, well nigh the shore Whereon became Europa a sweet burden.	C
30	And as a modest woman, who abides Sure of herself, and at another’s failing, From listening only, timorous becomes, Even thus did Beatrice change countenance; And I believe in heaven was such eclipse,	10 (6C)	And of this threshing-floor the site to me Were more unveiled, but the sun was proceeding Under my feet, a sign and more removed. My mind enamored, which is dallying At all times with my Lady, to bring back To her mine eyes was more than ever ardent	80
35	When suffered the supreme Omnipotence; Thereafterward proceeded forth his words With voice so much transmuted from itself, The very countenance was not more changed.	10	And if or Art or Nature has made bait To catch the eyes and so possess the mind, In human flesh or in its portraiture, All joined together would appear as nought To the divine delight which shone upon me When to her smiling face I turned me round.	85
40	“The spouse of Christ has never nurtured been On blood of mine, of Linus and of Cletus, To be made use of in acqurest of gold; But in acqurest of this delightful life Sixtus and Pius, Urban and Calixtus,	95	The virtue that her look endowed me with From the fair nest of Leda tore me forth, And up into the swiftest heaven impelled me.	90
45	After much lamentation, shed their blood. Our purpose was not, that on the right hand Of our successors should in part be seated The Christian folk, in part upon the other; Nor that the keys which were to me confided	7		95
Divine x Comedy		B		Divine x Comedy
750	27.49	105		27.99
				800

30.17 Were all concluded in a single praise,
Divine XI Comedy Scant would it be to serve the present turn.
20 Not only does the beauty I beheld
Transcend ourselves, but truly I believe
Its Maker only may enjoy it all.
Vanquished do I confess me by this passage
More than by problem of his theme was ever
O'ercome the comic or the tragic poet;
25 For as the sun the sight that trembles most,
Even so the memory of that sweet smile
My mind depriveth of its very self.
From the first day that I beheld her face
In this life, to the moment of this look,
30 ♦ The sequence of my song has ne'er been severed;
But now perforce this sequence must desist
From following her beauty with my verse,
As every artist at his uttermost.
Such as I leave her to a greater fame
35 Than any of my trumpet, which is bringing
Its arduous matter to a final close,
With voice and gesture of a perfect leader
She recommenced: "We from the greatest body
Have issued to the heaven that is pure light;
40 Light intellectual replete with love,
Love of true good replete with ecstasy,
L1[O] Ecstasy that transcendeth every sweetness.
A Here shalt thou see the one host and the other
Of Paradise, and one in the same aspects
45 Which at the final judgment thou shalt see."
Even as a sudden lightning that disperses
The visual spirits, so that it deprives
The eye of impress from the strongest objects
Thus round about me flashed a living light,
30.50 And left me swathed around with such a veil
Of its effulgence, that I nothing saw.
"Ever the Love which quieteth this heaven
Welcomes into itself with such salute,
To make the candle ready for its flame."
55 No sooner had within me these brief words
An entrance found, than I perceived myself
To be uplifted over my own power,
And I with vision new rekindled me,
Such that no light whatever is so pure
60 But that mine eyes were fortified against it.
And light I saw in fashion of a river
Fulvid with its effulgence, 'twixt two banks
Depicted with an admirable Spring.
Out of this river issued living sparks,
And on all sides sank down into the flowers,
350 30.66 Like unto rubies that are set in gold;

106
96

7

XI^A

LONGFELLOW

DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY



EPIC POEM

.ORG

DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

29
31

2L A 28, 29, 30.66

3L B 30.67, 30.118

2L C 30.119, 31, 29

QUICK START

28	[1]	30	[433]
29	[141]	31	[581]
30	[385]	29	[726]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Paradiso	28: 139	29: 145	30: 148 = 432
Inferno	30: 148	31: 145	29: 139 = 432

A
A

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:

tri-Canti descend I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.

Inferno tri-Canti descend;
Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;
Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

XI^A

7

INTERLEAVABLE

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EPICPOEM.ORG 864 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

PRINT
2-SIDED:
106 to 115

7

106

28	AFTER the truth against the present life	107 (65C)	And this so loudly sounded from their lips,	29.112
	Of miserable mortals was unfolded	97 (59C)	That, in the warfare to enkindle Faith,	
	By her who doth imparadise my mind,		They made of the Evangel shields and lances.	
	As in a looking-glass a taper's flame		Now men go forth with jests and drolleries	115
5	He sees who from behind is lighted by it,		To preach, and if but well the people laugh,	
	Before he has it in his sight or thought,		The hood puffs out, and nothing more is asked.	
	And turns him round to see if so the glass		But in the cowl there nestles such a bird,	
	Tell him the truth, and sees that it accords		That, if the common people were to see it,	
	Therewith as doth a music with its metre,		They would perceive what pardons they confide in,	120
10	In similar wise my memory recollecteth		For which so great on earth has grown the folly,	
	That I did, looking into those fair eyes,		That, without proof of any testimony,	
	Of which Love made the springes to ensnare me.		To each indulgence they would flock together.	
	And as I turned me round, and mine were touched		By this Saint Anthony his pig doth fatten,	
♦	By that which is apparent in that volume,		And many others, who are worse than pigs,	125
15	Whenever on its gyre we gaze intent,		Paying in money without mark of coinage.	
	A point beheld I, that was raying out		But since we have digressed abundantly,	
	Light so acute, the sight which it enkindles		Turn back thine eyes forthwith to the right path,	
	Must close perforce before such great acuteness.		So that the way be shortened with the time.	
	And whatsoever star seems smallest here		This nature doth so multiply itself	130
20	Would seem to be a moon, if placed beside it		In numbers, that there never yet was speech	
	As one star with another star is placed.		Nor mortal fancy that can go so far.	
	Perhaps at such a distance as appears		And if thou notest that which is revealed	
	A halo cincturing the light that paints it,		By Daniel, thou wilt see that in his thousands	
	When densest is the vapour that sustains it,		Number determinate is kept concealed.	135
25	Thus distant round the point a circle of fire		The primal light, that all irradiates it,	
L1[I]	So swiftly whirled, that it would have surpassed		By modes as many is received therein,	L1[I]
A	Whatever motion soonest girds the world;		As are the splendors wherewith it is mated.	A
	And this was by another circumcint,		Hence, inasmuch as on the act conceptive	
	That by a third, the third then by a fourth,		The affection followeth, of love the sweetness	140
30	By a fifth the fourth, and then by a sixth the fifth;		Therein diversely fervid is or tepid.	
	The seventh followed thereupon in width		The height behold now and the amplitude	
	So ample now, that Juno's messenger	2 (1C)	Of the eternal power, since it hath made	
	Entire would be too narrow to contain it.		Itself so many mirrors, where 't is broken,	
	Even so the eighth and ninth; and every one		One in itself remaining as before."	29.145
35	More slowly moved, according as it was		P ERCHANCE six thousand miles remote from us	30
	In number distant farther from the first.		Is glowing the sixth hour, and now this world	
	And that one had its flame most crystalline		Inclines its shadow almost to a level,	
	From which less distant was the stainless spark,	2	When the mid-heaven begins to make itself	5
	I think because more with its truth imbued.		So deep to us, that here and there a star	
40	My Lady, who in my anxiety		Ceases to shine so far down as this depth,	
	Beheld me much perplexed, said: "From that point		And as advances bright exceedingly	
	Dependent is the heaven and nature all.	97	The handmaid of the sun, the heaven is closed	
	Behold that circle most conjoined to it,		Light after light to the most beautiful;	
	And know thou, that its motion is so swift		Not otherwise the Triumph, which forever	10
45	Through burning love whereby it is spurred on."		Plays round about the point that vanquished me,	
	And I to her: "If the world were arranged		Seeming enclosed by what itself encloses,	
	In the order which I see in yonder wheels,	⑦	Little by little from my vision faded;	
Divine	What's set before me would have satisfied me;		Whereat to turn mine eyes on Beatrice	Divine
XI	But in the world of sense we can perceive		My seeing nothing and my love constrained me.	XI
Comedy	That evermore the circles are diviner		If what has hitherto been said of her	Comedy
28.50		107		300

29.62	By the enlightening grace and their own merit, So that they have a full and steadfast will.	108 (66C)	As they are from the centre more remote	28.51
Divine XI Comedy	I would not have thee doubt, but certain be,	98 (60C)	Wherefore if my desire is to be ended	Divine XI Comedy
65	'T is meritorious to receive this grace, According as the affection opens to it. Now round about in this consistory Much mayst thou contemplate, if these my words Be gathered up, without all further aid.		In this miraculous and angelic temple, That has for confines only love and light, To hear behoves me still how the example	55
70	But since upon the earth, throughout your schools, They teach that such is the angelic nature That it doth hear, and recollect, and will, More will I say, that thou mayst see unmixed The truth that is confounded there below,		Since for myself in vain I contemplate it.” “If thine own fingers unto such a knot Be insufficient, it is no great wonder, So hard hath it become for want of trying.”	60
75 ♦	Equivocating in such like prelections. These substances, since in God's countenance They jocund were, turned not away their sight From that wherefrom not anything is hidden; Hence they have not their vision intercepted		My Lady thus; then said she: “Do thou take What I shall tell thee, if thou wouldst be sated, And exercise on that thy subtlety. The circles corporal are wide and narrow According to the more or less of virtue	65
80	By object new, and hence they do not need To recollect, through interrupted thought. So that below, not sleeping, people dream, Believing they speak truth, and not believing; And in the last is greater sin and shame.		Which is distributed through all their parts. The greater goodness works the greater weal, The greater weal the greater body holds, If perfect equally are all its parts.	70
85	Below you do not journey by one path Philosophising; so transporteth you Love of appearance and the thought thereof.		Therefore this one which sweeps along with it The universe sublime, doth correspond Unto the circle which most loves and knows. On which account, if thou unto the virtue Apply thy measure, not to the appearance	75
L2[O] A	And even this above here is endured With less disdain, than when is set aside The Holy Writ, or when it is distorted.		Of substances that unto thee seem round, Thou wilt behold a marvellous agreement, Of more to greater, and of less to smaller, In every heaven, with its Intelligence.”	L2[O] A
90	They think not there how much of blood it costs To sow it in the world, and how he pleases Who in humility keeps close to it.		Even as remaineth splendid and serene The hemisphere of air, when Boreas	80
	Each striveth for appearance, and doth make His own inventions; and these treated are By preachers, and the Evangel holds its peace. One sayeth that the moon did backward turn, In the Passion of Christ, and interpose herself So that the sunlight reached not down below;	3 (2C)	Is blowing from that cheek where he is mildest, Because is purified and resolved the rack That erst disturbed it, till the welkin laughs With all the beauties of its pageantry; Thus did I likewise, after that my lady Had me provided with her clear response, And like a star in heaven the truth was seen. And soon as to a stop her words had come, Not otherwise does iron scintillate	85
29.100	And lies; for of its own accord the light Hid itself; whence to Spaniards and to Indians, As to the Jews, did such eclipse respond. Florence has not so many Lapi and Bindi As fables such as these, that every year Are shouted from the pulpit back and forth,	3	When molten, than those circles scintillated. Their coruscation all the sparks repeated, And they so many were, their number makes More millions than the doubling of the chess. I heard them sing hosanna choir by choir To the fixed point which holds them at the <i>Ubi</i> ,	90
105	In such wise that the lambs, who do not know, Come back from pasture fed upon the wind, And not to see the harm doth not excuse them. Christ did not to his first disciples say, 'Go forth, and to the world preach idle tales,'	98	And ever will, where they have ever been. And she, who saw the dubious meditations Within my mind, “The primal circles,” said, “Have shown thee Seraphim and Cherubim. Thus rapidly they follow their own bonds,	95
250	29.111 But unto them a true foundation gave;	⑦ A 108		28.100 100

28.101	To be as like the point as most they can, And can as far as they are high in vision. Those other Loves, that round about them go, Thrones of the countenance divine are called, Because they terminate the primal Triad. And thou shouldst know that they all have delight As much as their own vision penetrates The Truth, in which all intellect finds rest. From this it may be seen how blessedness Is founded in the faculty which sees, And not in that which loves, and follows next; And of this seeing merit is the measure, Which is brought forth by grace, and by good will; Thus on from grade to grade doth it proceed. The second Triad, which is germinating In such wise in this sempiternal spring, That no nocturnal Aries despoils, Perpetually hosanna warbles forth With threefold melody, that sounds in three Orders of joy, with which it is intrined. The three Divine are in this hierarchy, First the Dominions, and the Virtues next; And the third order is that of the Powers. Then in the dances twain penultimate The Principalities and Archangels wheel; The last is wholly of angelic sports. These orders upward all of them are gazing, And downward so prevail, that unto God They all attracted are and all attract. And Dionysius with so great desire To contemplate these Orders set himself, He named them and distinguished them as I do. But Gregory afterwards dissented from him; Wherefore, as soon as he unclosed his eyes Within this heaven, he at himself did smile. And if so much of secret truth a mortal Proffered on earth, I would not have thee marvel, For he who saw it here revealed it to him,	109 (67C) 99 (61C)	Where centres every When and every <i>Ubi</i> . Not to acquire some good unto himself, Which is impossible, but that his splendor In its resplendency may say, ‘ <i>Subsisto</i> ,’ In his eternity outside of time, Outside all other limits, as it pleased him, Into new Loves the Eternal Love unfolded. Nor as if torpid did he lie before; For neither after nor before proceeded The going forth of God upon these waters. Matter and Form unmingled and conjoined Came into being that had no defect, E’en as three arrows from a three-stringed bow. And as in glass, in amber, or in crystal A sunbeam flashes so, that from its coming To its full being is no interval, So from its Lord did the triform effect Ray forth into its being all together, Without discrimination of beginning. Order was con-created and constructed In substances, and summit of the world Were those wherein the pure act was produced. Pure potentiality held the lowest part; Midway bound potentiality with act Such bond that it shall never be unbound. Jerome has written unto you of angels Created a long lapse of centuries Or ever yet the other world was made; But written is this truth in many places By writers of the Holy Ghost, and thou Shalt see it, if thou lookest well thereat. And even reason seeth it somewhat, For it would not concede that for so long Could be the motors without their perfection. Now dost thou know both where and when these Loves Created were, and how; so that extinct In thy desire already are three fires. Nor could one reach, in counting, unto twenty So swiftly, as a portion of these angels Disturbed the subject of your elements. The rest remained, and they began this art Which thou discernest, with so great delight That never from their circling do they cease. The occasion of the fall was the accursed Presumption of that One, whom thou hast seen By all the burden of the world constrained. Those whom thou here beholdest modest were To recognise themselves as of that goodness Which made them apt for so much understanding; On which account their vision was exalted	29.12 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 29.50 55 29.61
105				
110				
◆				
115				
120				
▼P 8,000				
125				
L2[I]			L2[I]	
A			A	
130				
135		4 (3C)		
28.139		4		
29	A With much more of the truth about these circles.” T what time both the children of Latona, Surmounted by the Ram and by the Scales, Together make a zone of the horizon, As long as from the time the zenith holds them In equipoise, till from that girdle both Changing their hemisphere disturb the balance, So long, her face depicted with a smile, Did Beatrice keep silence while she gazed Fixedly at the point which had o’ercome me. Then she began: “I say, and I ask not What thou dost wish to hear, for I have seen it			
5		99		
Divine XI Comedy		⑦	Divine XI Comedy	
051			200	
29.11		109		

30.69	Than the disease which strips my face of flesh.	110 (68C)	And then, as if inebriate with the odors,	30.67
Divine 70	The rigid justice that chastises me	100 (62C)	They plunged again into the wondrous torrent,	Divine
XI	Draweth occasion from the place in which		And as one entered issued forth another.	XI
Comedy	I sinned, to put the more my sighs in flight.		"The high desire, that now inflames and moves thee	Comedy
	There is Romena, where I counterfeited		To have intelligence of what thou seest,	70
	The currency imprinted with the Baptist,		Pleaseth me all the more, the more it swells.	
75	For which I left my body burned above.		But of this water it behoves thee drink	
	But if I here could see the tristful soul		Before so great a thirst in thee be slaked."	
	Of Guido, or Alessandro, or their brother,		Thus said to me the sunshine of mine eyes;	75
	For Branda's fount I would Dot give the sight.		And added: "The river and the topazes	
	One is within already, if the raving		Going in and out, and the laughing of the herbage.	
80	Shades that are going round about speak truth;		Are of their truth foreshadowing prefaces;	
	But what avails it me, whose limbs are tied?		Not that these things are difficult in themselves,	
♦	If I were only still so light, that in		But the deficiency is on thy side,	80
	A hundred years I could advance one inch,		For yet thou hast not vision so exalted."	
	I had already started on the way,		There is no babe that leaps so suddenly	
85	Seeking him out among this squalid folk,		With face towards the milk, if he awake	
	Although the circuit be eleven miles,		Much later than his usual custom is,	
	And be not less than half a mile across.		As I did, that I might make better mirrors	85
	For them am I in such a family;		Still of mine eyes, down stooping to the wave	
	They did induce me into coining florins,		Which flows that we therein be better made.	
90	Which had three carats of impurity."		And even as the penthouse of mine eyelids	
	And I to him: "Who are the two poor wretches		Drank of it, it forthwith appeared to me	
	That smoke like unto a wet hand in winter,		Out of its length to be transformed to round.	90
	Lying there close upon thy right-hand confines?"		Then as a folk who have been under masks	
L1[O]	"I found them here," replied he, "when I rained		Seem other than before, if they divest	L1[O]
B	Into this chasm, and since they have not turned,		The semblance not their own they disappeared in,	B
	Nor do I think they will for evermore.		Thus into greater pomp were changed for me	
	One the false woman is who accused Joseph,		The flowerets and the sparks, so that I saw	95
	The other the false Sinon, Greek of Troy;		Both of the Courts of Heaven made manifest.	
	From acute fever they send forth such reek."		O splendor of God! by means of which I saw	
30.100	And one of them, who felt himself annoyed	5 (4C)	The lofty triumph of the realm veracious,	
	At being, peradventure, named so darkly,		Give me the power to say how it I saw!	
	Smote with the fist upon his hardened paunch.		There is a light above, which visible	30.100
	It gave a sound, as if it were a drum;		Makes the Creator unto every creature,	
	And Master Adam smote him in the face,		Who only in beholding Him has peace,	
105	With arm that did not seem to be less hard,		And it expands itself in circular form	
	Saying to him: "Although be taken from me		To such extent, that its circumference	
	All motion, for my limbs that heavy are,	5	Would be too large a girdle for the sun.	105
	I have an arm unfettered for such need."		The semblance of it is all made of rays	
	Whereat he answer made: "When thou didst go		Reflected from the top of Primal Motion,	
110	Unto the fire, thou hadst it not so ready;		Which takes therefrom vitality and power.	
	But hadst it so and more when thou wast coining."		And as a hill in water at its base	
	The dropsical: "Thou sayest true in that;	100	Mirrors itself, as if to see its beauty	110
	But thou wast not so true a witness there,		When affluent most in verdure and in flowers,	
	Where thou wast questioned of the truth at Troy."		So, ranged aloft all round about the light,	
115	"If I spake false, thou falsifiedst the coin,"	⑦	Mirrored I saw in more ranks than a thousand	
	Said Sinon; "and for one fault I am here,		All who above there have from us returned	
	And thou for more than any other demon."		And if the lowest row collect within it	
055	30.118 "Remember, perjurer, about the horse,"	110	So great a light, how vast the amplitude	30.116
				400

30.117	Is of this Rose in its extremest leaves! My vision in the vastness and the height Lost not itself, but comprehended all	111 (69C)	Of ocean was the dolorous one aware,	30.19
120	The quantity and quality of that gladness. There near and far nor add nor take away; For there where God immediately doth govern, The natural law in naught is relevant. Into the yellow of the Rose Eternal	101 (63C)	Out of her senses like a dog she barked, So much the anguish had her mind distorted; But not of Thebes the furies nor the Trojan Were ever seen in any one so cruel	
125	That spreads, and multiplies, and breathes an odor Of praise unto the ever-vernal Sun, As one who silent is and fain would speak, Me Beatrice drew on, and said: "Behold Of the white stoles how vast the convent is!		In goading beasts, and much more human members, As I beheld two shadows pale and naked,	25
130 ♦	Behold how vast the circuit of our city! Behold our seats so filled to overflowing, That here henceforward are few people wanting! On that great throne whereon thine eyes are fixed For the crown's sake already placed upon it,		Who, biting, in the manner ran along That a boar does, when from the sty turned loose. One to Capocchio came, and by the nape Seized with its teeth his neck, so that in dragging It made his belly grate the solid bottom.	30
135	Before thou suppest at this wedding feast Shall sit the soul (that is to be Augustus On earth) of noble Henry, who shall come To redress Italy ere she be ready. Blind covetousness, that casts its spell upon you,		And the Aretine, who trembling had remained, Said to me: "That mad sprite is Gianni Schicchi, And raving goes thus harrying other people." "O," said I to him, "so may not the other Set teeth on thee, let it not weary thee	35
140	Has made you like unto the little child, Who dies of hunger and drives off the nurse. And in the sacred forum then shall be A Prefect such, that openly or covert On the same road he will not walk with him.		To tell us who it is, ere it dart hence." And he to me: "That is the ancient ghost Of the nefarious Myrrha, who became Beyond all rightful love her father's lover. She came to sin with him after this manner,	40
L1[I] B	But long of God he will not be endured In holy office; he shall be thrust down Where Simon Magus is for his deserts, And make him of Alagna lower go!"		By counterfeiting of another's form; As he who goeth yonder undertook, That he might gain the lady of the herd, To counterfeit in himself Buoso Donati, Making a will and giving it due form."	L1[I] B
145	30.148	6 (5C)	And after the two maniacs had passed On whom I held mine eye, I turned it back To look upon the other evil-born. I saw one made in fashion of a lute, If he had only had the groin cut off	30.50
5	30.18	6	Just at the point at which a man is forked. The heavy dropsy, that so disproportions The limbs with humors, which it ill concocts, That the face corresponds not to the belly, Compelled him so to hold his lips apart	55
10		101	As does the hectic, who because of thirst One tow' rds the chin, the other upward turns. "O ye, who without any torment are, And why I know not, in the world of woe," He said to us, "behold, and be attentive	60
Divine XI Comedy		7	Unto the misery of Master Adam; I had while living much of what I wished, And now, alas! a drop of water crave. The rivulets, that from the verdant hills Of Cassentin descend down into Arno, Making their channels to be cold and moist, Ever before me stand, and not in vain; For far more doth their image dry me up	Divine XI Comedy
450		111		500

Jerome has written unto you of angels
Created a long lapse of centuries
Or ever yet the other world was made;
But written is this truth in many places
By writers of the Holy Ghost, and thou
Shalt see it, if thou lookest well thereat.
And even reason seeth it somewhat,

⓪ NE and the self-same tongue first wounded me,
So that it tinged the one cheek and the other,
And then held out to me the medicine;
Thus do I hear that once Achilles' spear,
His and his father's, used to be the cause
First of a sad and then a gracious boon.
We turned our backs upon the wretched valley,
Upon the bank that girds it round about,
Going across it without any speech.
There it was less than night, and less than day,
So that my sight went little in advance;
But I could hear the blare of a loud horn,
So loud it would have made each thunder faint,
Which, counter to it following its way,
Mine eyes directed wholly to one place.
After the dolorous discomfiture
When Charlemagne the holy emprise lost,
So terribly Orlando sounded not.
Short while my head turned thitherward I held
When many lofty towers I seemed to see,
Whereat I: "Master, say, what town is this?
And he to me: "Because thou peerest forth
Athwart the darkness at too great a distance,
It happens that thou errest in thy fancy.
Well shalt thou see, if thou arrivest there,
How much the sense deceives itself by distance;
Therefore a little faster spur thee on."
Then tenderly he took me by the hand,
And said: "Before we farther have advanced,
That the reality may seem to thee
Less strange, know that these are not towers, but giants,
And they are in the well, around the bank,
From navel downward, one and all of them."
As, when the fog is vanishing away,
Little by little doth the sight refigure
Whate'er the mist that crowds the air conceals,
So, piercing through the dense and darksome air,
More and more near approaching tow'rd the verge,
My error fled, and fear came over me;
Because as on its circular parapets
Monteregione crowns itself with towers,
E'en thus the margin which surrounds the well
With one half of their bodies turreted

He made reply who had the swollen belly,
"And rueful be it thee the whole world knows it."
"Rueful to thee the thirst be wherewith cracks
Thy tongue," the Greek said, "and the putrid water
That hedges so thy paunch before thine eyes."
Then the false-coiner: "So is gaping wide
Thy mouth for speaking evil, as 't is wont;
Because if I have thirst, and humor stuff me,
Thou hast the burning and the head that aches,
And to lick up the mirror of Narcissus
Thou wouldst not want words many to invite thee."
In listening to them was I wholly fixed,
When said the Master to me: "Now just look,
For little wants it that I quarrel with thee."
When him I heard in anger speak to me,
I turned me round towards him with such shame
That still it eddies through my memory.
And as he is who dreams of his own harm,
Who dreaming wishes it may be a dream,
So that he craves what is, as if it were not;
Such I became, not having power to speak,
For to excuse myself I wished, and still
Excused myself, and did not think I did it.
"Less shame doth wash away a greater fault,"
The Master said, "than this of thine has been;
Therefore thyself disburden of all sadness,
And make account that I am aye beside thee,
If e'er it come to pass that fortune bring thee
Where there are people in a like dispute;
For a base wish it is to wish to hear it."

⓪ NE and the self-same tongue first wounded me,
So that it tinged the one cheek and the other,
And then held out to me the medicine;
Thus do I hear that once Achilles' spear,
His and his father's, used to be the cause
First of a sad and then a gracious boon.
We turned our backs upon the wretched valley,
Upon the bank that girds it round about,
Going across it without any speech.
There it was less than night, and less than day,
So that my sight went little in advance;
But I could hear the blare of a loud horn,
So loud it would have made each thunder faint,
Which, counter to it following its way,
Mine eyes directed wholly to one place.
After the dolorous discomfiture
When Charlemagne the holy emprise lost,
So terribly Orlando sounded not.
Short while my head turned thitherward I held
When many lofty towers I seemed to see,

31.21 Whereat I: "Master, say, what town is this?
 And he to me: "Because thou peerest forth
 Athwart the darkness at too great a distance,
 It happens that thou errest in thy fancy.
 25 Well shalt thou see, if thou arrivest there,
 How much the sense deceives itself by distance;
 Therefore a little faster spur thee on."
 Then tenderly he took me by the hand,
 And said: "Before we farther have advanced,
 30 That the reality may seem to thee
 Less strange, know that these are not towers, but giants,
 And they are in the well, around the bank,
 From navel downward, one and all of them."
 ♦ As, when the fog is vanishing away,
 35 Little by little doth the sight refigure
 Whate'er the mist that crowds the air conceals,
 So, piercing through the dense and darksome air,
 More and more near approaching tow'rd the verge,
 My error fled, and fear came over me;
 40 Because as on its circular parapets
 Montereccione crowns itself with towers,
 E'en thus the margin which surrounds the well
 With one half of their bodies turreted
 The horrible giants, whom Jove menaces
 45 E'en now from out the heavens when he thunders.
 L1[I] And I of one already saw the face,
 C Shoulders, and breast, and great part of the belly,
 And down along his sides both of the arms.
 Certainly Nature, when she left the making
 31.50 Of animals like these, did well indeed,
 By taking such executors from Mars;
 And if of elephants and whales she doth not
 Repent her, whosoever looketh subtly
 More just and more discreet will hold her for it;
 55 For where the argument of intellect
 Is added unto evil will and power,
 No rampart can the people make against it.
 His face appeared to me as long and large
 As is at Rome the pine-cone of Saint Peter's,
 60 And in proportion were the other bones;
 So that the margin, which an apron was
 Down from the middle, showed so much of him
 Above it, that to reach up to his hair
 Three Frieslanders in vain had vaunted them;
 65 For I beheld thirty great palms of him
 Down from the place where man his mantle buckles.
 "Raphael mai amech izabi almi,"
 Began to clamour the ferocious mouth,
 To which were not befitting sweeter psalms.
 31.70 And unto him my Guide: "Soul idiotic,

Who knew the art of moderate expenses,
 And Niccolo, who the luxurious use
 Of cloves discovered earliest of all
 Within that garden where such seed takes root;
 And taking out the band, among whom squandered
 Caccia d'Ascian his vineyards and vast woods,
 And where his wit the Abbagliato proffered!
 But, that thou know who thus doth second thee
 Against the Sienese, make sharp thine eye
 Tow'rds me, so that my face well answer thee,
 And thou shalt see I am Capocchio's shade,
 Who metals falsified by alchemy;
 Thou must remember, if I well descry thee,
 How I a skilful ape of nature was."

A T what time both the children of Latona,
 Surmounted by the Ram and by the Scales,
 Together make a zone of the horizon,
 As long as from the time the zenith holds them
 In equipoise, till from that girdle both
 Changing their hemisphere disturb the balance,
 So long, her face depicted with a smile,
 Did Beatrice keep silence while she gazed
 Fixedly at the point which had o'ercome me.
 Then she began: "I say, and I ask not
 10 What thou dost wish to hear, for I have seen it
 Where centres every When and every Ubi.
 Not to acquire some good unto himself,
 L1[I] C Which is impossible, but that his splendor
 In its resplendency may say, 'Subsisto,'
 15 In his eternity outside of time,
 Outside all other limits, as it pleased him,
 Into new Loves the Eternal Love unfolded.
 Nor as if torpid did he lie before;
 For neither after nor before proceeded
 20 The going forth of God upon these waters.
 Matter and Form unmingled and conjoined
 Came into being that had no defect,
 E'en as three arrows from a three-stringed bow.
 And as in glass, in amber, or in crystal
 25 A sunbeam flashes so, that from its coming
 To its full being is no interval,
 So from its Lord did the triform effect
 Ray forth into its being all together,
 Without discrimination of beginning.
 30 Order was con-created and constructed
 In substances, and summit of the world
 Were those wherein the pure act was produced.
 Pure potentiality held the lowest part;
 Midway bound potentiality with act
 Such bond that it shall never be unbound.

29.76	And never saw I plied a currycomb	114 (70C)	Keep to thy horn, and vent thyself with that,	31.71
Divine XI Comedy	By stable-boy for whom his master waits,	104 (64C)	When wrath or other passion touches thee.	Divine XI Comedy
80	Or him who keeps awake unwillingly, As every one was plying fast the bite Of nails upon himself, for the great rage Of itching which no other succor had. And the nails downward with them dragged the scab, In fashion as a knife the scales of bream, Or any other fish that has them largest.		Search round thy neck, and thou wilt find the belt Which keeps it fastened, O bewildered soul, And see it, where it bars thy mighty breast.” Then said to me: “He doth himself accuse; This one is Nimrod, by whose evil thought One language in the world is not still used. Here let us leave him and not speak in vain; For even such to him is every language	80
85	“O thou, that with thy fingers dost dismail thee,” Began my Leader unto one of them, “And makest of them pincers now and then, Tell me if any Latian is with those		As his to others, which to none is known.” Therefore a longer journey did we make, Turned to the left, and a crossbow-shot oft We found another far more fierce and large. In binding him, who might the master be	85
♦	Who are herein; so may thy nails suffice thee		I cannot say; but he had pinioned close Behind the right arm, and in front the other, With chains, that held him so begirt about From the neck down, that on the part uncovered It wound itself as far as the fifth gyre.	90
90	To all eternity unto this work.” “Latians are we, whom thou so wasted seest, Both of us here,” one weeping made reply; “But who art thou, that questionest about us?” And said the Guide: “One am I who descends Down with this living man from cliff to cliff, And I intend to show Hell unto him.” Then broken was their mutual support, And trembling each one turned himself to me, With others who had heard him by rebound.		“This proud one wished to make experiment Of his own power against the Supreme Jove,” My Leader said, “whence he has such a guerdon. Ephialtes is his name; he showed great prowess, What time the giants terrified the Gods;	95
29.100	Wholly to me did the good Master gather,		The arms he wielded never more he moves.”	L2[O]
L2[O]	Saying: “Say unto them whate’er thou wishest.”		And I to him: “If possible, I should wish	C
C	And I began, since he would have it so: “So may your memory not steal away In the first world from out the minds of men, But so may it survive ’neath many suns, Say to me who ye are, and of what people; Let not your foul and loathsome punishment Make you afraid to show yourselves to me.” “I of Arezzo was,” one made reply, “And Albert of Siena had me burned; But what I died for does not bring me here. ’T is true I said to him, speaking in jest, That I could rise by flight into the air, And he who had conceit, but little wit,	9 (6C)	That of the measureless Briareus These eyes of mine might have experience.” Whence he replied: “Thou shalt behold Antaeus Close by here, who can speak and is unbound, Who at the bottom of all crime shall place us. Much farther yon is he whom thou wouldst see, And he is bound, and fashioned like to this one, Save that he seems in aspect more ferocious.” There never was an earthquake of such might That it could shake a tower so violently, As Ephialtes suddenly shook himself.	31.100
105	Would have me show to him the art; and only Because no Daedalus I made him, made me Be burned by one who held him as his son. But unto the last Bolgia of the ten, For alchemy, which in the world I practised, Minos, who cannot err, has me condemned.” And to the Poet said I: “Now was ever So vain a people as the Sienese? Not for a certainty the French by far.” Whereat the other leper, who had heard me,	9	Then was I more afraid of death than ever, For nothing more was needful than the fear, If I had not beheld the manacles. Then we proceeded farther in advance, And to Antaeus came, who, full five ells Without the head, forth issued from the cavern. “O thou, who in the valley fortunate,	105
110	Replied unto my speech: “Taking out Stricca,		Which Scipio the heir of glory made,	†
115			When Hannibal turned back with all his hosts, Once brought’st a thousand lions for thy prey, And who, hadst thou been at the mighty war Among thy brothers, some it seems still think	110
120		104		115
850	29.125	⑦		700
		A		
		114		31.120

31.121 The sons of Earth the victory would have gained;
Place us below, nor be disdainful of it,
There where the cold doth lock Cocytus up.
Make us not go to Tityus nor Typhoeus;
125 This one can give of that which here is longed for;
Therefore stoop down, and do not curl thy lip.
Still in the world can he restore thy fame;
Because he lives, and still expects long life,
If to itself Grace call him not untimely.”
130 So said the Master; and in haste the other
His hands extended and took up my Guide, —
Hands whose great pressure Hercules once felt.
Virgilius, when he felt himself embraced,
♦ Said unto me: “Draw nigh, that I may take thee”;
135 Then of himself and me one bundle made.
As seems the Carisenda, to behold
Beneath the leaning side, when goes a cloud
Above it so that opposite it hangs;
Such did Antaeus seem to me, who stood
140 Watching to see him stoop, and then it was
I could have wished to go some other way.
But lightly in the abyss, which swallows up
Judas with Lucifer, he put us down;
Nor thus bowed downward made he there delay,
31.145 But, as a mast does in a ship, uprose.
L2[I] 29 **T**HE many people and the divers wounds
C These eyes of mine had so inebriated,
That they were wishful to stand still and weep;
But said Virgilius: “What dost thou still gaze at?
5 Why is thy sight still riveted down there
Among the mournful, mutilated shades?
Thou hast not done so at the other Bolge;
Consider, if to count them thou believest,
That two-and-twenty miles the valley winds,
10 And now the moon is underneath our feet;
Henceforth the time allotted us is brief,
And more is to be seen than what thou seest.”
^P 1,000 “If thou hadst,” I made answer thereupon,
“Attended to the cause for which I looked,
15 Perhaps a longer stay thou wouldst have pardoned.”
Meanwhile my Guide departed, and behind him
I went, already making my reply,
And superadding: “In that cavern where
I held mine eyes with such attention fixed,
20 I think a spirit of my blood laments
The sin which down below there costs so much”
Then said the Master: “Be no longer broken
Thy thought from this time forward upon him;
Attend elsewhere, and there let him remain;
Divine XI Comedy 750 29.25 For him I saw below the little bridge,

115 (71C)
105 (65C)

10 (7C)

10

105

7

A
115

Pointing at thee, and threatening with his finger 29.26
Fiercely, and heard him called Geri del Bello.
So wholly at that time wast thou impeded
By him who formerly held Altaforte,
Thou didst not look that way; so he departed.” 30
“O my Conductor, his own violent death,
Which is not yet avenged for him,” I said,
“By any who is sharer in the shame,
Made him disdainful; whence he went away,
35 As I imagine, without speaking to me,
And thereby made me pity him the more.”
Thus did we speak as far as the first place
Upon the crag, which the next valley shows
Down to the bottom, if there were more light.
When we were now right over the last cloister 40
Of Malebolge, so that its lay-brothers
Could manifest themselves unto our sight,
Divers lamentings pierced me through and through,
Which with compassion had their arrows barbed,
Whereat mine ears I covered with my hands. 45
What pain would be, if from the hospitals
Of Valdichiana, ’twixt July and September,
And of Maremma and Sardinia
All the diseases in one moat were gathered,
Such was it here, and such a stench came from it 29.50
As from putrescent limbs is wont to issue. L2[I]
We had descended on the furthest bank C
From the long crag, upon the left hand still,
And then more vivid was my power of sight
Down tow’rds the bottom, where the mistress 55
Of the high Lord, Justice infallible,
Punishes forgers, which she here records.
I do not think a sadder sight to see
Was in Aegina the whole people sick,
60 (When was the air so full of pestilence,
The animals, down to the little worm,
All fell, and afterwards the ancient people,
According as the poets have affirmed,
Were from the seed of ants restored again,)
Than was it to behold through that dark valley 65
The spirits languishing in divers heaps.
This on the belly, that upon the back
One of the other lay, and others crawling
Shifted themselves along the dismal road.
We step by step went onward without speech, 70
Gazing upon and listening to the sick
Who had not strength enough to lift their bodies.
I saw two sitting leaned against each other, Divine XI Comedy
As leans in heating platter against platter, 800
From head to foot bespotted o’er with scabs; 29.75

Consider, if to count them thou believest,
That two-and-twenty miles the valley winds,
And now the moon is underneath our feet;
Henceforth the time allotted us is brief,
And more is to be seen than what thou seest.”
“If thou hadst,” I made answer thereupon,
“Attended to the cause for which I looked,
Perhaps a longer stay thou wouldst have pardoned.”
Meanwhile my Guide departed, and behind him
I went, already making my reply,
And superadding: “In that cavern where
I held mine eyes with such attention fixed,
I think a spirit of my blood laments
The sin which down below there costs so much”
Then said the Master: “Be no longer broken
Thy thought from this time forward upon him;
Attend elsewhere, and there let him remain;
For him I saw below the little bridge,
Pointing at thee, and threatening with his finger
Fiercely, and heard him called *Geri del Bello*.
So wholly at that time wast thou impeded
By him who formerly held *Altaforte*,
Thou didst not look that way; so he departed.”
“O my Conductor, his own violent death,
Which is not yet avenged for him,” I said,
“By any who is sharer in the shame,
Made him disdainful; whence he went away,
As I imagine, without speaking to me,
And thereby made me pity him the more.”
Thus did we speak as far as the first place
Upon the crag, which the next valley shows
Down to the bottom, if there were more light.
When we were now right over the last cloister
Of *Malebolge*, so that its lay-brothers
Could manifest themselves unto our sight,
Divers lamentings pierced me through and through,
Which with compassion had their arrows barbed,
Whereat mine ears I covered with my hands.
What pain would be, if from the hospitals
Of *Valdichiana*, ’twixt July and September,
And of *Maremma* and *Sardinia*
All the diseases in one moat were gathered,
Such was it here, and such a stench came from it
As from putrescent limbs is wont to issue.
We had descended on the furthest bank
From the long crag, upon the left hand still,
And then more vivid was my power of sight
Down tow’rds the bottom, where the minstress
Of the high Lord, Justice infallible,
Punishes forgers, which she here records.

LONGFELLOW
DANTE’S
DIVINE
COMEDY



EPIC POEM

. O R G
DIGITAL CLASSICS

BALANCED
MIDFILLS

29
31

2L A 30, 31, 29.58

3L B 29.59, 28.118

2L C 28.119, 29, 30

QUICK START

30	[1]	28	[433]
31	[149]	29	[572]
29	[294]	30	[717]

TOTAL LINE COUNT

Inferno	30: 148	31: 145	29: 139 = 432
Paradiso	28: 139	29: 145	30: 148 = 432

B
B

ALL P’S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti *descend* I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.
Inferno tri-Canti *descend*;
Paradiso tri-Canti *ascend*;
Purgatorio tri-Canti *erased*.

XI^B

7

INTERLEAVABLE

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EPICPOEM.ORG 864 lines 3.0

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

PRINT
2-SIDED:
116 to 125

30 **9** **T** WAS at the time when Juno was enraged,
 For Semele, against the Theban blood,
 As she already more than once had shown,
 So reft of reason Athamas became,
5 That, seeing his own wife with children twain
 Walking encumbered upon either hand,
 He cried: "Spread out the nets, that I may take
 The lioness and her whelps upon the passage";
 And then extended his unpyting claws,
10 Seizing the first, who had the name Learchus,
 And whirled him round, and dashed him on a rock;
 And she, with the other burthen, drowned herself; —
 And at the time when fortune downward hurled
 ♦ The Trojan's arrogance, that all things dared,
15 So that the king was with his kingdom crushed,
 Hecuba sad, disconsolate, and captive,
 When lifeless she beheld Polyxena,
 And of her Polydorus on the shore
 Of ocean was the dolorous one aware,
20 Out of her senses like a dog she barked,
 So much the anguish had her mind distorted;
 But not of Thebes the furies nor the Trojan
 Were ever seen in any one so cruel
 In goading beasts, and much more human members,
25 As I beheld two shadows pale and naked,
L1[I] Who, biting, in the manner ran along
A That a boar does, when from the sty turned loose.
 One to Capocchio came, and by the nape
 Seized with its teeth his neck, so that in dragging
30 It made his belly grate the solid bottom.
 And the Aretine, who trembling had remained,
 Said to me: "That mad sprite is Gianni Schicchi,
 And raving goes thus harrying other people."
35 "O," said I to him, "so may not the other
 Set teeth on thee, let it not weary thee
 To tell us who it is, ere it dart hence."
 And he to me: "That is the ancient ghost
 Of the nefarious Myrrha, who became
 Beyond all rightful love her father's lover.
40 She came to sin with him after this manner,
 By counterfeiting of another's form;
 As he who goeth yonder undertook,
 That he might gain the lady of the herd,
 To counterfeit in himself Buoso Donati,
45 Making a will and giving it due form."
 And after the two maniacs had passed
 On whom I held mine eye, I turned it back
 To look upon the other evil-born.
 I saw one made in fashion of a lute,
Divine
XI
Comedy
50 **30.50** If he had only had the groin cut off

117 (72C)

97 (59C)

2 (1C)

2

107

⑦


B

117

Much farther yon is he whom thou wouldst see,
 And he is bound, and fashioned like to this one,
 Save that he seems in aspect more ferocious."
 There never was an earthquake of such might
 That it could shake a tower so violently,
 As Ephialtes suddenly shook himself.
 Then was I more afraid of death than ever,
 For nothing more was needful than the fear,
 If I had not beheld the manacles.
 Then we proceeded farther in advance,
 And to Antaeus came, who, full five ells
 Without the head, forth issued from the cavern.
 "O thou, who in the valley fortunate,
 Which Scipio the heir of glory made,
 When Hannibal turned back with all his hosts,
 Once brought'st a thousand lions for thy prey,
 And who, hadst thou been at the mighty war
 Among thy brothers, some it seems still think
 The sons of Earth the victory would have gained;
 Place us below, nor be disdainful of it,
 There where the cold doth lock Cocytus up.
 Make us not go to Tityus nor Typhoeus;
 This one can give of that which here is longed for;
 Therefore stoop down, and do not curl thy lip.
 Still in the world can he restore thy fame;
 Because he lives, and still expects long life,
L1[I] If to itself Grace call him not untimely."
A
 So said the Master; and in haste the other
 His hands extended and took up my Guide, —
 Hands whose great pressure Hercules once felt.
 Virgilius, when he felt himself embraced,
 Said unto me: "Draw nigh, that I may take thee";
 Then of himself and me one bundle made.
 As seems the Carisenda, to behold
 Beneath the leaning side, when goes a cloud
 Above it so that opposite it hangs;
 Such did Antaeus seem to me, who stood
 Watching to see him stoop, and then it was
 I could have wished to go some other way.
 But lightly in the abyss, which swallows up
 Judas with Lucifer, he put us down;
 Nor thus bowed downward made he there delay,
 But, as a mast does in a ship, uprose.
31.145
29
T HE many people and the divers wounds
 These eyes of mine had so inebriated,
 That they were wishful to stand still and weep;
 But said Virgilius: "What dost thou still gaze at?
 Why is thy sight still riveted down there
 Among the mournful, mutilated shades?
 Thou hast not done so at the other Bolge;
Divine
XI
Comedy
29.7 **300**

31.53	Repent her, whosoever looketh subtly	118 (73C)	Just at the point at which a man is forked.	30.51
Divine	More just and more discreet will hold her for it;	98 (60C)	The heavy dropsy, that so disproportions	Divine
XI	For where the argument of intellect		The limbs with humors, which it ill concocts,	XI
Comedy	Is added unto evil will and power,		That the face corresponds not to the belly,	Comedy
	No rampart can the people make against it.		Compelled him so to hold his lips apart	55
	His face appeared to me as long and large		As does the hectic, who because of thirst	
60	As is at Rome the pine-cone of Saint Peter's,		One tow'rds the chin, the other upward turns.	
	And in proportion were the other bones;		"O ye, who without any torment are,	
	So that the margin, which an apron was		And why I know not, in the world of woe,"	
	Down from the middle, showed so much of him		He said to us, "behold, and be attentive	60
	Above it, that to reach up to his hair		Unto the misery of Master Adam;	
	Three Frieslanders in vain had vaunted them;		I had while living much of what I wished,	
65	For I beheld thirty great palms of him		And now, alas! a drop of water crave.	
♦	Down from the place where man his mantle buckles.		The rivulets, that from the verdant hills	
	"Raphael mai amech izabi almi,"		Of Cassentin descend down into Arno,	65
	Began to clamour the ferocious mouth,		Making their channels to be cold and moist,	
	To which were not befitting sweeter psalms.		Ever before me stand, and not in vain;	
70	And unto him my Guide: "Soul idiotic,		For far more doth their image dry me up	
	Keep to thy horn, and vent thyself with that,		Than the disease which strips my face of flesh.	
	When wrath or other passion touches thee.		The rigid justice that chastises me	70
	Search round thy neck, and thou wilt find the belt		Draweth occasion from the place in which	
	Which keeps it fastened, O bewildered soul,		I sinned, to put the more my sighs in flight.	
75	And see it, where it bars thy mighty breast."		There is Romena, where I counterfeited	
	Then said to me: "He doth himself accuse;		The currency imprinted with the Baptist,	
	This one is Nimrod, by whose evil thought		For which I left my body burned above.	75
L2[O]	One language in the world is not still used.		But if I here could see the tristful soul	L2[O]
A	Here let us leave him and not speak in vain;		Of Guido, or Alessandro, or their brother,	A
80	For even such to him is every language		For Branda's fount I would Dot give the sight.	
	As his to others, which to none is known."		One is within already, if the raving	
	Therefore a longer journey did we make,		Shades that are going round about speak truth;	80
	Turned to the left, and a crossbow-shot oft		But what avails it me, whose limbs are tied?	
	We found another far more fierce and large.	3 (2C)	If I were only still so light, that in	
85	In binding him, who might the master be		A hundred years I could advance one inch,	
	I cannot say; but he had pinioned close		I had already started on the way,	
	Behind the right arm, and in front the other,		Seeking him out among this squalid folk,	85
	With chains, that held him so begirt about		Although the circuit be eleven miles,	
	From the neck down, that on the part uncovered		And be not less than half a mile across.	
90	It wound itself as far as the fifth gyre.		For them am I in such a family;	
	"This proud one wished to make experiment	3	They did induce me into coining florins,	
	Of his own power against the Supreme Jove,"		Which had three carats of impurity."	90
	My Leader said, "whence he has such a guerdon.		And I to him: "Who are the two poor wretches	
	Ephialtes is his name; he showed great prowess,	108	That smoke like unto a wet hand in winter,	
95	What time the giants terrified the Gods;		Lying there close upon thy right-hand confines?"	
	The arms he wielded never more he moves."		"I found them here," replied he, "when I rained	
	And I to him: "If possible, I should wish		Into this chasm, and since they have not turned,	95
	That of the measureless Briareus		Nor do I think they will for evermore.	
	These eyes of mine might have experience."	⑦	One the false woman is who accused Joseph,	
31.100	Whence he replied: "Thou shalt behold Antaeus		The other the false Sinon, Greek of Troy;	
	Close by here, who can speak and is unbound,	B	From acute fever they send forth such reek."	
250	31.102 Who at the bottom of all crime shall place us.	118	And one of them, who felt himself annoyed	30.100 100

30.101 At being, peradventure, named so darkly,
Smote with the fist upon his hardened paunch.
It gave a sound, as if it were a drum;
And Master Adam smote him in the face,
105 With arm that did not seem to be less hard,
Saying to him: "Although be taken from me
All motion, for my limbs that heavy are,
I have an arm unfettered for such need."
Whereat he answer made: "When thou didst go
110 Unto the fire, thou hadst it not so ready;
But hadst it so and more when thou wast coining."
The dropsical: "Thou sayest true in that;
But thou wast not so true a witness there,
♦ Where thou wast questioned of the truth at Troy."
115 "If I spake false, thou falsifiedst the coin,"
Said Sinon; "and for one fault I am here,
And thou for more than any other demon."
"Remember, perjurer, about the horse,"
He made reply who had the swollen belly,
120 "And rueful be it thee the whole world knows it."
"Rueful to thee the thirst be wherewith cracks
Thy tongue," the Greek said, "and the putrid water
vP 8,000 That hedges so thy paunch before thine eyes."
Then the false-coiner: "So is gaping wide
125 Thy mouth for speaking evil, as 't is wont;
L2[I] Because if I have thirst, and humor stuff me,
A Thou hast the burning and the head that aches,
And to lick up the mirror of Narcissus
Thou wouldst not want words many to invite thee."
130 In listening to them was I wholly fixed,
When said the Master to me: "Now just look,
For little wants it that I quarrel with thee."
When him I heard in anger speak to me,
I turned me round towards him with such shame
135 That still it eddies through my memory.
And as he is who dreams of his own harm,
Who dreaming wishes it may be a dream,
So that he craves what is, as if it were not;
Such I became, not having power to speak,
140 For to excuse myself I wished, and still
Excused myself, and did not think I did it.
"Less shame doth wash away a greater fault,"
The Master said, "than this of thine has been;
Therefore thyself disburden of all sadness,
145 And make account that I am aye beside thee,
Divine XI Comedy If e'er it come to pass that fortune bring thee
30.148 Where there are people in a like dispute;
For a base wish it is to wish to hear it."

NE and the self-same tongue first wounded me,
So that it tinged the one cheek and the other,

119 (74C)
99 (61C)

4 (3C)

4

109

7

B
119

And then held out to me the medicine;
Thus do I hear that once Achilles' spear,
His and his father's, used to be the cause
First of a sad and then a gracious boon.
We turned our backs upon the wretched valley,
Upon the bank that girds it round about,
Going across it without any speech.
There it was less than night, and less than day,
10 So that my sight went little in advance;
But I could hear the blare of a loud horn,
So loud it would have made each thunder faint,
Which, counter to it following its way,
15 Mine eyes directed wholly to one place.
After the dolorous discomfiture
When Charlemagne the holy emprise lost,
So terribly Orlando sounded not.
Short while my head turned thitherward I held
When many lofty towers I seemed to see,
20 Whereat I: "Master, say, what town is this?
And he to me: "Because thou peerest forth
Athwart the darkness at too great a distance,
It happens that thou errest in thy fancy.
Well shalt thou see, if thou arrivest there,
25 How much the sense deceives itself by distance;
Therefore a little faster spur thee on."
Then tenderly he took me by the hand,
L2[I] And said: "Before we farther have advanced,
A That the reality may seem to thee
30 Less strange, know that these are not towers, but giants,
And they are in the well, around the bank,
From navel downward, one and all of them."
As, when the fog is vanishing away,
35 Little by little doth the sight refigure
Whate'er the mist that crowds the air conceals,
So, piercing through the dense and darksome air,
More and more near approaching tow'rd the verge,
My error fled, and fear came over me;
40 Because as on its circular parapets
Monteregione crowns itself with towers,
E'en thus the margin which surrounds the well
With one half of their bodies turreted
The horrible giants, whom Jove menaces
45 E'en now from out the heavens when he thunders.
And I of one already saw the face,
Shoulders, and breast, and great part of the belly,
And down along his sides both of the arms.
Certainly Nature, when she left the making
31.50 Of animals like these, did well indeed,
By taking such executors from Mars;
31.52 And if of elephants and whales she doth not

Divine
XI
Comedy

200

28.69	If perfect equally are all its parts.	120 (75C)	I do not think a sadder sight to see	29.58
Divine XI Comedy	Therefore this one which sweeps along with it	100 (62C)	Was in Aegina the whole people sick,	Divine XI Comedy
	The universe sublime, doth correspond		(When was the air so full of pestilence,	
	Unto the circle which most loves and knows.		The animals, down to the little worm,	
	On which account, if thou unto the virtue		All fell, and afterwards the ancient people,	
75	Apply thy measure, not to the appearance		According as the poets have affirmed,	
	Of substances that unto thee seem round,		Were from the seed of ants restored again,) 65	
	Thou wilt behold a marvellous agreement,		Than was it to behold through that dark valley	
	Of more to greater, and of less to smaller,		The spirits languishing in divers heaps.	
	In every heaven, with its Intelligence.”		This on the belly, that upon the back	
	Even as remaineth splendid and serene		One of the other lay, and others crawling	
80	The hemisphere of air, when Boreas		Shifted themselves along the dismal road.	
♦	Is blowing from that cheek where he is mildest,		We step by step went onward without speech, 70	
	Because is purified and resolved the rack		Gazing upon and listening to the sick	
	That erst disturbed it, till the welkin laughs		Who had not strength enough to lift their bodies.	
	With all the beauties of its pageantry;		I saw two sitting leaned against each other,	
85	Thus did I likewise, after that my lady		As leans in heating platter against platter,	
	Had me provided with her clear response,		From head to foot bespotted o’er with scabs; 75	
	And like a star in heaven the truth was seen.		And never saw I plied a currycomb	
	And soon as to a stop her words had come,		By stable-boy for whom his master waits,	
	Not otherwise does iron scintillate		Or him who keeps awake unwillingly,	
90	When molten, than those circles scintillated.		As every one was plying fast the bite	
	Their coruscation all the sparks repeated,		Of nails upon himself, for the great rage 80	
	And they so many were, their number makes		Of itching which no other succor had.	
	More millions than the doubling of the chess.		And the nails downward with them dragged the scab,	
L1[O]	I heard them sing hosanna choir by choir		In fashion as a knife the scales of bream, L1[O]	
B	To the fixed point which holds them at the <i>Ubi</i> ,		Or any other fish that has them largest. B	
	And ever will, where they have ever been.		“O thou, that with thy fingers dost dismail thee,”	
	And she, who saw the dubious meditations		Began my Leader unto one of them,	
	Within my mind, “The primal circles,” said,		“And makest of them pincers now and then,	
	“Have shown thee Seraphim and Cherubim.		Tell me if any Latian is with those	
28.100	Thus rapidly they follow their own bonds,	5 (4C)	Who are herein; so may thy nails suffice thee	
	To be as like the point as most they can,		To all eternity unto this work.” 90	
	And can as far as they are high in vision.		“Latians are we, whom thou so wasted seest,	
	Those other Loves, that round about them go,		Both of us here,” one weeping made reply;	
	Thrones of the countenance divine are called,		“But who art thou, that questionest about us?”	
105	Because they terminate the primal Triad.		And said the Guide: “One am I who descends	
	And thou shouldst know that they all have delight		Down with this living man from cliff to cliff, 95	
	As much as their own vision penetrates	5	And I intend to show Hell unto him.”	
	The Truth, in which all intellect finds rest.		Then broken was their mutual support,	
	From this it may be seen how blessedness		And trembling each one turned himself to me,	
110	Is founded in the faculty which sees,		With others who had heard him by rebound.	
	And not in that which loves, and follows next;	110	Wholly to me did the good Master gather, 29.100	
	And of this seeing merit is the measure,		Saying: “Say unto them whate’er thou wishest.”	
	Which is brought forth by grace, and by good will;		And I began, since he would have it so:	
	Thus on from grade to grade doth it proceed.	⑦	“So may your memory not steal away	
	The second Triad, which is germinating		In the first world from out the minds of men,	
	In such wise in this sempiternal spring,		But so may it survive ’neath many suns, 105	
	That no nocturnal Aries despoils,		Say to me who ye are, and of what people;	
055	Perpetually hosanna warbles forth	120	Let not your foul and loathsome punishment 29.107	400

29.108 Make you afraid to show yourselves to me.”
 “I of Arezzo was,” one made reply,
 110 “And Albert of Siena had me burned;
 But what I died for does not bring me here.
 ’T is true I said to him, speaking in jest,
 That I could rise by flight into the air,
 And he who had conceit, but little wit,
 115 Would have me show to him the art; and only
 Because no Daedalus I made him, made me
 Be burned by one who held him as his son.
 But unto the last Bolgia of the ten,
 For alchemy, which in the world I practised,
 120 Minos, who cannot err, has me condemned.”
 ♦ And to the Poet said I: “Now was ever
 So vain a people as the Sienese?
 Not for a certainty the French by far.”
 Whereat the other leper, who had heard me,
 125 Replied unto my speech: “Taking out Stricca,
 Who knew the art of moderate expenses,
 And Niccolo, who the luxurious use
 Of cloves discovered earliest of all
 Within that garden where such seed takes root;
 130 And taking out the band, among whom squandered
 Caccia d’Ascian his vineyards and vast woods,
 And where his wit the Abbagliato proffered!
 L1[I] But, that thou know who thus doth second thee
 B Against the Sienese, make sharp thine eye
 Tow’rds me, so that my face well answer thee,
 And thou shalt see I am Capocchio’s shade,
 Who metals falsified by alchemy;
 Thou must remember, if I well descry thee,
 29.139 How I a skilful ape of nature was.”

28

AFTER the truth against the present life
 Of miserable mortals was unfolded
 By her who doth imparadise my mind,
 As in a looking-glass a taper’s flame
 5 He sees who from behind is lighted by it,
 Before he has it in his sight or thought,
 And turns him round to see if so the glass
 Tell him the truth, and sees that it accords
 Therewith as doth a music with its metre,
 10 In similar wise my memory recollecteth
 That I did, looking into those fair eyes,
 Of which Love made the springes to ensnare me.
 And as I turned me round, and mine were touched
 By that which is apparent in that volume,
 Whenever on its gyre we gaze intent,
 A point beheld I, that was raying out
 Light so acute, the sight which it enkindles
 28.18 Must close perforce before such great acuteness.

Divine
XI
Comedy

450

121 (76C)
101 (63C)

6 (5C)

6

111

⑦

 B

121

And whatsoever star seems smallest here
 28.19 Would seem to be a moon, if placed beside it
 As one star with another star is placed.
 Perhaps at such a distance as appears
 A halo cincturing the light that paints it,
 When densest is the vapour that sustains it,
 Thus distant round the point a circle of fire
 25 So swiftly whirled, that it would have surpassed
 Whatever motion soonest girds the world;
 And this was by another circumcint,
 That by a third, the third then by a fourth,
 By a fifth the fourth, and then by a sixth the fifth;
 30 The seventh followed thereupon in width
 So ample now, that Juno’s messenger
 Entire would be too narrow to contain it.
 Even so the eighth and ninth; and every one
 35 More slowly moved, according as it was
 In number distant farther from the first.
 And that one had its flame most crystalline
 From which less distant was the stainless spark,
 I think because more with its truth imbued.
 My Lady, who in my anxiety
 40 Beheld me much perplexed, said: “From that point
 Dependent is the heaven and nature all.
 Behold that circle most conjoined to it,
 And know thou, that its motion is so swift
 L1[I] Through burning love whereby it is spurred on.”
 B And I to her: “If the world were arranged
 In the order which I see in yonder wheels,
 What’s set before me would have satisfied me;
 But in the world of sense we can perceive
 28.50 That evermore the circles are diviner
 As they are **from the centre** more remote
 Wherefore if my desire is to be ended
 In this miraculous and angelic temple,
 That has for confines only love and light,
 To hear behoves me still how the example
 55 And the exemplar go not in one fashion,
 Since for myself in vain I contemplate it.”
 “If thine own fingers unto such a knot
 Be insufficient, it is no great wonder,
 So hard hath it become for want of trying.”
 60 My Lady thus; then said she: “Do thou take
 What I shall tell thee, if thou wouldst be sated,
 And exercise on that thy subtlety.
 The circles corporal are wide and narrow
 According to the more or less of virtue
 Which is distributed through all their parts.
 The greater goodness works the greater weal,
 The greater weal the greater body holds,
 28.68 500

Divine
XI
Comedy

Divine II Comedy 40	Jerome has written unto you of angels Created a long lapse of centuries Or ever yet the other world was made; But written is this truth in many places By writers of the Holy Ghost, and thou Shalt see it, if thou lookest well thereat.	122 102	With threefold melody, that sounds in three Orders of joy, with which it is intrined. The three Divine are in this hierarchy, First the Dominions, and the Virtues next; And the third order is that of the Powers. Then in the dances twain penultimate The Principalities and Archangels wheel; The last is wholly of angelic sports. These orders upward all of them are gazing, And downward so prevail, that unto God They all attracted are and all attract. And Dionysius with so great desire To contemplate these Orders set himself, He named them and distinguished them as I do. But Gregory afterwards dissented from him; Wherefore, as soon as he unclosed his eyes Within this heaven, he at himself did smile. And if so much of secret truth a mortal Proffered on earth, I would not have thee marvel, For he who saw it here revealed it to him, With much more of the truth about these circles.”	28.119 Divine XI Comedy
29.43 31	 NE and the self-same tongue first wounded me, So that it tinged the one cheek and the other, And then held out to me the medicine; Thus do I hear that once Achilles' spear, His and his father's, used to be the cause First of a sad and then a gracious boon. We turned our backs upon the wretched valley, Upon the bank that girds it round about, Going across it without any speech. There it was less than night, and less than day, So that my sight went little in advance; But I could hear the blare of a loud horn, So loud it would have made each thunder faint, Which, counter to it following its way, Mine eyes directed wholly to one place. After the dolorous discomfiture When Charlemagne the holy emprise lost, So terribly Orlando sounded not. Short while my head turned thitherward I held When many lofty towers I seemed to see, Whereat I: “Master, say, what town is this? And he to me: “Because thou peerest forth Athwart the darkness at too great a distance , It happens that thou errest in thy fancy. Well shalt thou see, if thou arrivest there, How much the sense deceives itself by distance ; Therefore a little faster spur thee on.” Then tenderly he took me by the hand, And said: “Before we farther have advanced, That the reality may seem to thee Less strange, know that these are not towers, but giants, And they are in the well, around the bank, From navel downward, one and all of them.” As, when the fog is vanishing away, Little by little doth the sight refigure Whate'er the mist that crowds the air conceals , So, piercing through the dense and darksome air, More and more near approaching tow'rd the verge, My error fled, and fear came over me; Because as on its circular parapets Monteregione crowns itself with towers, E'en thus the margin which surrounds the well With one half of their bodies turreted		125 130 135 28.139	
L1[O] C 20			 T what time both the children of Latona, Surmounted by the Ram and by the Scales, Together make a zone of the horizon, As long as from the time the zenith holds them In equipoise, till from that girdle both Changing their hemisphere disturb the balance, So long, her face depicted with a smile, Did Beatrice keep silence while she gazed Fixedly at the point which had o'ercome me. Then she began: “I say, and I ask not What thou dost wish to hear, for I have seen it Where centres every When and every <i>Ubi</i> . Not to acquire some good unto himself, Which is impossible, but that his splendor In its resplendency may say, ‘ <i>Subsisto</i> ,’ In his eternity outside of time, Outside all other limits, as it pleased him, Into new Loves the Eternal Love unfolded. Nor as if torpid did he lie before; For neither after nor before proceeded The going forth of God upon these waters. Matter and Form unmingled and conjoined Came into being that had no defect, E'en as three arrows from a three-stringed bow. And as in glass, in amber, or in crystal A sunbeam flashes so, that from its coming To its full being is no interval, So from its Lord did the triform effect Ray forth into its being all together,	29
25		7		L1[O] C
30		7		10 15
35		112		20 25
40				
31.43				29.29
		122		009

29.30	Without discrimination of beginning. Order was con-created and constructed In substances, and summit of the world Were those wherein the pure act was produced. Pure potentiality held the lowest part;	123 103	Before thou suppest at this wedding feast Shall sit the soul (that is to be Augustus On earth) of noble Henry, who shall come To redress Italy ere she be ready. Blind covetousness, that casts its spell upon you, Has made you like unto the little child, Who dies of hunger and drives off the nurse. And in the sacred forum then shall be A Prefect such, that openly or covert On the same road he will not walk with him. But long of God he will not be endured In holy office; he shall be thrust down Where Simon Magus is for his deserts, And make him of Alagna lower go!"	30.135 140 145 30.148
35	Midway bound potentiality with act Such bond that it shall never be unbound. Jerome has written unto you of angels Created a long lapse of centuries Or ever yet the other world was made;		A T what time both the children of Latona, Surmounted by the Ram and by the Scales, Together make a zone of the horizon, As long as from the time the zenith holds them In equipoise , till from that girdle both Changing their hemisphere disturb the balance , So long, her face depicted with a smile, Did Beatrice keep silence while she gazed Fixedly at the point which had o'ercome me. Then she began: "I say, and I ask not What thou dost wish to hear, for I have seen it Where centres every When and every <i>Ubi</i> . Not to acquire some good unto himself, Which is impossible, but that his splendor In its resplendency may say, ' <i>Subsisto</i> ,' In his eternity outside of time, Outside all other limits, as it pleased him, Into new Loves the Eternal Love unfolded. Nor as if torpid did he lie before; For neither after nor before proceeded The going forth of God upon these waters. Matter and Form unmingled and conjoined Came into being that had no defect, E'en as three arrows from a three-stringed bow. And as in glass, in amber, or in crystal A sunbeam flashes so, that from its coming To its full being is no interval, So from its Lord did the triform effect Ray forth into its being all together, Without discrimination of beginning. Order was con-created and constructed In substances, and summit of the world Were those wherein the pure act was produced. Pure potentiality held the lowest part; Midway bound potentiality with act Such bond that it shall never be unbound.	29 5 10 15 20 25 30
40	But written is this truth in many places By writers of the Holy Ghost, and thou Shalt see it, if thou lookest well thereat.			
♦	And even reason seeth it somewhat, For it would not concede that for so long Could be the motors without their perfection.			
45	Now dost thou know both where and when these Loves Created were, and how; so that extinct In thy desire already are three fires. Nor could one reach, in counting, unto twenty			
29.50	So swiftly, as a portion of these angels Disturbed the subject of your elements. The rest remained, and they began this art Which thou discernest, with so great delight That never from their circling do they cease.			
L1[I]	The occasion of the fall was the accursed			L1[I]
C	Presumption of that One, whom thou hast seen By all the burden of the world constrained. Those whom thou here beholdest modest were To recognise themselves as of that goodness			C
60	Which made them apt for so much understanding; On which account their vision was exalted By the enlightening grace and their own merit, So that they have a full and steadfast will. I would not have thee doubt, but certain be,	8		
65	'T is meritorious to receive this grace, According as the affection opens to it. Now round about in this consistory Much mayst thou contemplate, if these my words Be gathered up, without all further aid.	8		
70	But since upon the earth, throughout your schools, They teach that such is the angelic nature That it doth hear, and recollect, and will, More will I say, that thou mayst see unmixed The truth that is confounded there below, Equivocating in such like prelections.	113		
75	These substances, since in God's countenance They jocund were, turned not away their sight From that wherefrom not anything is hidden; Hence they have not their vision intercepted	⑦ B B		Divine XI Comedy
Divine XI Comedy		123		29.35

30.85	As I did, that I might make better mirrors	124 (77C)	By object new, and hence they do not need	29.80
Divine XI Comedy	Still of mine eyes, down stooping to the wave	104 (64C)	To recollect, through interrupted thought.	Divine XI Comedy
	Which flows that we therein be better made.		So that below, not sleeping, people dream,	
	And even as the penthouse of mine eyelids		Believing they speak truth, and not believing;	
	Drank of it, it forthwith appeared to me		And in the last is greater sin and shame.	
90	Out of its length to be transformed to round.		Below you do not journey by one path	
	Then as a folk who have been under masks		Philosophising; so transporteth you	
	Seem other than before, if they divest		Love of appearance and the thought thereof.	
	The semblance not their own they disappeared in,		And even this above here is endured	
	Thus into greater pomp were changed for me		With less disdain, than when is set aside	
95	The flowerets and the sparks, so that I saw		The Holy Writ, or when it is distorted.	90
	Both of the Courts of Heaven made manifest.		They think not there how much of blood it costs	
	O splendor of God! by means of which I saw		To sow it in the world, and how he pleases	
♦	The lofty triumph of the realm veracious,		Who in humility keeps close to it.	
	Give me the power to say how it I saw!		Each striveth for appearance, and doth make	
30.100	There is a light above, which visible		His own inventions; and these treated are	95
	Makes the Creator unto every creature,		By preachers, and the Evangel holds its peace.	
	Who only in beholding Him has peace,		One sayeth that the moon did backward turn,	
	And it expands itself in circular form		In the Passion of Christ, and interpose herself	
	To such extent, that its circumference		So that the sunlight reached not down below;	
105	Would be too large a girdle for the sun.		And lies; for of its own accord the light	29.100
	The semblance of it is all made of rays		Hid itself; whence to Spaniards and to Indians,	
	Reflected from the top of Primal Motion,		As to the Jews, did such eclipse respond.	
	Which takes therefrom vitality and power.		Florence has not so many Lapi and Bindi	
	And as a hill in water at its base		As fables such as these, that every year	
L2[O]	Mirrors itself, as if to see its beauty		Are shouted from the pulpit back and forth,	L2[O]
C	When affluent most in verdure and in flowers,		In such wise that the lambs, who do not know,	C
	So, ranged aloft all round about the light,		Come back from pasture fed upon the wind,	
	Mirrored I saw in more ranks than a thousand		And not to see the harm doth not excuse them.	
	All who above there have from us returned		Christ did not to his first disciples say,	
115	And if the lowest row collect within it		‘Go forth, and to the world preach idle tales,’	110
	So great a light, how vast the amplitude	9 (6C)	But unto them a true foundation gave;	
	Is of this Rose in its extremest leaves!		And this so loudly sounded from their lips,	
	My vision in the vastness and the height		That, in the warfare to enkindle Faith,	
	Lost not itself, but comprehended all		They made of the Evangel shields and lances.	
120	The quantity and quality of that gladness.		Now men go forth with jests and drolleries	115
	There near and far nor add nor take away;		To preach, and if but well the people laugh,	
	For there where God immediately doth govern,		The hood puffs out, and nothing more is asked. ^{v P-0} ^{w 8,000} ^{A or B}	
	The natural law in naught is relevant.	9	But in the cowl there nestles such a bird,	
	Into the yellow of the Rose Eternal		That, if the common people were to see it,	
125	That spreads, and multiplies, and breathes an odor		They would perceive what pardons they confide in,	120
	Of praise unto the ever-vernal Sun,		For which so great on earth has grown the folly,	
	As one who silent is and fain would speak,		That, without proof of any testimony,	
	Me Beatrice drew on, and said: “Behold	114	To each indulgence they would flock together.	
	Of the white stoles how vast the convent is!		By this Saint Anthony his pig doth fatten,	
130	Behold how vast the circuit of our city!		And many others, who are worse than pigs, ‡	125
	Behold our seats so filled to overflowing,	⑦	Paying in money without mark of coinage.	
	That here henceforward are few people wanting!		But since we have digressed abundantly,	
	On that great throne whereon thine eyes are fixed	7 B	Turn back thine eyes forthwith to the right path,	
850	30.134 For the crown’s sake already placed upon it,	124	So that the way be shortened with the time.	29.129 700

29.130 This nature doth so multiply itself
In numbers, that there never yet was speech
Nor mortal fancy that can go so far.
And if thou notest that which is revealed
By Daniel, thou wilt see that in his thousands
135 Number determinate is kept concealed.
The primal light, that all irradiates it,
By modes as many is received therein,
As are the splendors wherewith it is mated.
Hence, inasmuch as on the act conceptive
140 The affection followeth, of love the sweetness
Therein diversely fervid is or tepid.
The height behold now and the amplitude
Of the eternal power, since it hath made
Itself so many mirrors, where 't is broken,
29.145 One in itself remaining as before."

30 **P**ERCHANCE six thousand miles remote from us
 Is glowing the sixth hour, and now this world
 Inclines its shadow almost to a level,
 When the mid-heaven begins to make itself
5 So deep to us, that here and there a star
 Ceases to shine so far down as this depth,
 And as advances bright exceedingly
 The handmaid of the sun, the heaven is closed
 Light after light to the most beautiful;
L2[I] Not otherwise the Triumph, which forever
C Plays round about the point that vanquished me,
 Seeming enclosed by what itself encloses,
 Little by little from my vision faded;
 Whereat to turn mine eyes on Beatrice
15 My seeing nothing and my love constrained me.
 If what has hitherto been said of her
 Were all concluded in a single praise,
 Scant would it be to serve the present turn.
 Not only does the beauty I beheld
20 Transcend ourselves, but truly I believe
 Its Maker only may enjoy it all.
 Vanquished do I confess me by this passage
 More than by problem of his theme was ever
 O'ercome the comic or the tragic poet;
25 For as the sun the sight that trembles most,
 Even so the memory of that sweet smile
 My mind depriveth of its very self.
 From the first day that I beheld her face
 In this life, to the moment of this look,
30 The sequence of my song has ne'er been severed;
Divine But now perforce this sequence must desist
XI From following her beauty with my verse,
Comedy As every artist at his uttermost.
750 Such as I leave her to a greater fame

125 (78C)
105 (65C)

10 (7C)

10

115

⑦

 B

125

Than any of my trumpet, which is bringing 30.35
 Its arduous matter to a final close,
 With voice and gesture of a perfect leader
 She recommenced: "We from the greatest body
 Have issued to the heaven that is pure light;
 Light intellectual replete with love, 40
 Love of true good replete with ecstasy,
 Ecstasy that transcendeth every sweetness.
 Here shalt thou see the one host and the other
 Of Paradise, and one in the same aspects
 Which at the final judgment thou shalt see." 45
 Even as a sudden lightning that disperses
 The visual spirits, so that it deprives
 The eye of impress from the strongest objects
 Thus round about me flashed a living light,
 And left me swathed around with such a veil 30.50
 Of its effulgence, that I nothing saw.
 "Ever the Love which quieteth this heaven
 Welcomes into itself with such salute,
 To make the candle ready for its flame."
 No sooner had within me these brief words 55
 An entrance found, than I perceived myself
 To be uplifted over my own power,
 And I with vision new rekindled me,
 Such that no light whatever is so pure
 But that mine eyes were fortified against it. L2[I]
 And light I saw in fashion of a river C
 Fulvid with its effulgence, 'twixt two banks
 Depicted with an admirable Spring.
 Out of this river issued living sparks,
 And on all sides sank down into the flowers, 65
 Like unto rubies that are set in gold;
 And then, as if inebriate with the odors,
 They plunged again into the wondrous torrent,
 And as one entered issued forth another.
 "The high desire, that now inflames and moves thee 70
 To have intelligence of what thou seest,
 Pleaseth me all the more, the more it swells.
 But of this water it behoves thee drink
 Before so great a thirst in thee be slaked."
 Thus said to me the sunshine of mine eyes; 75
 And added: "The river and the topazes
 Going in and out, and the laughing of the herbage.
 Are of their truth foreshadowing prefaces;
 Not that these things are difficult in themselves,
 But the deficiency is on thy side, 80
 For yet thou hast not vision so exalted."
 There is no babe that leaps so suddenly Divine
XI
Comedy
 With face towards the milk, if he awake
 Much later than his usual custom is, 30.84 800

32.5 More fully; but because I have them not,
Divine XII Comedy Not without fear I bring myself to speak;
For 'tis no enterprise to take in jest,
To sketch the bottom of all the universe,
Nor for a tongue that cries Mamma and Babbo.
10 But may those Ladies help this verse of mine,
Who helped Amphion in enclosing Thebes,
That from the fact the word be not diverse.
O rabble ill-begotten above all,
15 Who 're in the place to speak of which is hard,
'T were better ye had here been sheep or goats!
When we were down within the darksome well,
Beneath the giant's feet, but lower far,
And I was scanning still the lofty wall,
20 I heard it said to me: "Look how thou steapest!
Take heed thou do not trample with thy feet
The heads of the tired, miserable brothers!"
Whereat I turned me round, and saw before me
And underfoot a lake, that from the frost
25 The semblance had of glass, and not of water.
So thick a veil ne'er made upon its current
In winter-time Danube in Austria,
♦ Nor there beneath the frigid sky the Don,
As there was here; so that if Tambernich
L1[O] Had fallen upon it, or Pietrapana,
A E'en at the edge 't would not have given a creak.
And as to croak the frog doth place himself
With muzzle out of water, — when is dreaming
Of gleaning oftentimes the peasant-girl, —
35 Livid, as far down as where shame appears,
Were the disconsolate shades within the ice,
Setting their teeth unto the note of storks.
Each one his countenance held downward bent;
From mouth the cold, from eyes the doleful heart
40 Among them witness of itself procures.
When round about me somewhat I had looked,
I downward turned me, and saw two so close,
The hair upon their heads together mingled.
"Ye who so strain your breasts together, tell me,"
45 I said, "who are you;" and they bent their necks,
And when to me their faces they had lifted,
Their eyes, which first were only moist within,
Gushed o'er the eyelids, and the frost congealed
The tears between, and locked them up again.
32.50 Clamp never bound together wood with wood
So strongly; whereat they, like two he-goats,
Butted together, so much wrath o'ercame them.
And one, who had by reason of the cold
Lost both his ears, still with his visage downward,
350 32.54 Said: "Why dost thou so mirror thyself in us?"

126
106

LONGFELLOW
DANTE'S
DIVINE
COMEDY



2L A 33, 34, 32.54
1L B 32.55, 31.115
2L C 31.116, 33, 32

QUICK START			
33	[1]	31	[436]
34	[158]	33	[578]
32	[297]	32	[723]

TOTAL LINE COUNT			
Inferno	33: 157	34: 139	32: 139 = 435
Paradiso	31: 142	33: 145	32: 151 = 438

1

ALL P'S ERASED EDITION:
tri-Canti descend I to VI,
ascend VII to XII.
Inferno tri-Canti descend;
Paradiso tri-Canti ascend;
Purgatorio tri-Canti erased.

1

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116

126

EPICPOEM.ORG 873 lines 3.0

7

XII

BALANCED
PREVIEW I

18
1

XII

7

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

PRINT
2-SIDED:
126 to 135

33 **H**IS mouth uplifted from his grim repast,
 That sinner, wiping it upon the hair
 Of the same head that he behind had wasted.
 Then he began: “Thou wilt that I renew
 The desperate grief, which wrings my heart already
 To think of only, ere I speak of it;
 But if my words be seed that may bear fruit
 Of infamy to the traitor whom I gnaw,
 Speaking and weeping shalt thou see together.
 I know not who thou art, nor by what mode
 Thou hast come down here; but a Florentine
 Thou seemest to me truly, when I hear thee.
 Thou hast to know I was Count Ugolino,
 And this one was Ruggieri the Archbishop;
 Now I will tell thee why I am such a neighbor.
 That, by effect of his malicious thoughts,
 Trusting in him I was made prisoner,
 And after put to death, I need not say;
 But ne’ertheless what thou canst not have heard,
 That is to say, how cruel was my death,
 Hear shalt thou, and shalt know if he has wronged me.
 A narrow perforation in the mew,
 Which bears because of me the title of Famine,
 And in which others still must be locked up,
 Had shown me through its opening many moons
 Already, when I dreamed the evil dream
 Which of the future rent for me the veil.
 This one appeared to me as lord and master,
 Hunting the wolf and whelps upon the mountain
 For which the Pisans cannot Lucca see.
 With sleuth-hounds gaunt, and eager, and well trained,
 Gualandi with Sismondi and Lanfianchi
 He had sent out before him to the front.
 After brief course seemed unto me forespent
 The father and the sons, and with sharp tushes
 It seemed to me I saw their flanks ripped open.
 When I before the morrow was awake,
 Moaning amid their sleep I heard my sons
 Who with me were, and asking after bread.
 Cruel indeed art thou, if yet thou grieve not,
 Thinking of what my heart foreboded me,
 And weep’st thou not, what art thou wont to weep at?
 They were awake now, and the hour drew nigh
 At which our food used to be brought to us,
 And through his dream was each one apprehensive;
And I heard locking up the under door
 Of the horrible tower; whereat without a word
 I gazed into the faces of my sons.
 I wept not, I within so turned to stone;
 They wept; and darling little Anselm mine

127 (79C)
107 (66C)

"Rise up," the Master said, "upon thy feet; 34.94
 The way is long, and difficult the road,
 And now the sun to middle-tierce returns."
 It was not any palace corridor
 There where we were, but dungeon natural,
 With floor uneven and unease of light.
 "Ere from the abyss I tear myself away, 34.100
 My Master," said I when I had arisen,
 "To draw me from an error speak a little; vP.9,000
 Where is the ice? and how is this one fixed
 Thus upside down? and how in such short time
 From eve to morn has the sun made his transit?" 105
 And he to me: "Thou still imaginest
 Thou art beyond the centre, where I grasped
 The hair of the fell worm, who mines the world.
 That side thou wast, so long as I descended;
 When round I turned me, thou didst pass the point 110
 To which things heavy draw from every side,
 And now beneath the hemisphere art come
 Opposite that which overhangs the vast
 Dry-land, and 'neath whose cope was put to death
 The Man who without sin was born and lived. 115
 Thou hast thy feet upon the little sphere
 Which makes the other face of the Judecca.
 Here it is morn when it is evening there;
 And he who with his hair a stairway made us L1[I]
 Still fixed remaineth as he was before. A
 Upon this side he fell down out of heaven;
 And all the land, that whilom here emerged,
 For fear of him made of the sea a veil,
 And came to our hemisphere; and peradventure
 To flee from him, what on this side appears 125
 Left the place vacant here, and back recoiled."
 A place there is below, from Beelzebub
 As far receding as the tomb extends,
 Which not by sight is known, but by the sound
 Of a small rivulet, that there descendeth 130
 Through chasm within the stone, which it has gnawed
 With course that winds about and slightly falls.
 The Guide and I into that hidden road
 Now entered, to return to the bright world;
 And without care of having any rest 135
 We mounted up, he first and I the second,
 Till I beheld through a round aperture
 Some of the beauteous things that Heaven doth bear;
 Thence we came forth to rebehold the stars. 34.139

IF I had rhymes both rough and stridulous, 32 Divine
 As were appropriate to the dismal hole XII
 Down upon which thrust all the other rocks, Comedy
 I would press out the juice of my conception 32.4 300

Divine
XII
Comedy

50 33.50

⑦

127

32 Divine
XII
Comedy

32.4 300

34.44	The left was such to look upon as those	128 (80C)	Said: 'Thou dost gaze so, father, what doth ail thee?'	33.51
Divine XII Comedy	Who come from where the Nile falls valley-ward.	108 (67C)	Still not a tear I shed, nor answer made	Divine XII Comedy
	Underneath each came forth two mighty wings, Such as befitting were so great a bird; Sails of the sea I never saw so large. No feathers had they, but as of a bat		All of that day, nor yet the night thereafter, Until another sun rose on the world. As now a little glimmer made its way	55
34.50	Their fashion was; and he was waving them, So that three winds proceeded forth therefrom. Thereby Cocytus wholly was congealed.		Into the dolorous prison, and I saw Upon four faces my own very aspect, Both of my hands in agony I bit; And, thinking that I did it from desire	
	With six eyes did he weep, and down three chins Trickled the tear-drops and the bloody drivel.		Of eating, on a sudden they uprose,	60
55	At every mouth he with his teeth was crunching A sinner, in the manner of a brake, So that he three of them tormented thus.		And said they: 'Father, much less pain 't will give us If thou do eat of us; thyself didst clothe us With this poor flesh, and do thou strip it off.'	
	To him in front the biting was as naught Unto the clawing, for sometimes the spine Utterly stripped of all the skin remained.		I calmed me then, not to make them more sad. That day we all were silent, and the next.	65
60	"That soul up there which has the greatest pain," The Master said, "is Judas Iscariot; With head inside, he plies his legs without.		Ah! obdurate earth, wherefore didst thou not open? When we had come unto the fourth day, Gaddo Threw himself down outstretched before my feet, Saying, 'My father, why dost thou not help me?'	70
65	Of the two others, who head downward are, The one who hangs from the black jowl is Brutus; ♦ See how he writhes himself, and speaks no word.		And there he died; and, as thou seest me, I saw the three fall, one by one, between The fifth day and the sixth; whence I betook me, Already blind, to groping over each,	
	And the other, who so stalwart seems, is Cassius. But night is reascending, and 't is time		And three days called them after they were dead; Then hunger did what sorrow could not do."	75
L2[O]	That we depart, for we have seen the whole."		When he had said this, with his eyes distorted, The wretched skull resumed he with his teeth,	L2[O]
A	As seemed him good, I clasped him round the neck, And he the vantage seized of time and place, And when the wings were opened wide apart, He laid fast hold upon the shaggy sides; From fell to fell descended downward then		Which, as a dog's, upon the bone were strong. Ah! Pisa, thou opprobrium of the people Of the fair land there where the S' doth sound,	A
75	Between the thick hair and the frozen crust. When we were come to where the thigh revolves Exactly on the thickness of the haunch, The Guide, with labour and with hard-drawn breath, Turned round his head where he had had his legs,	3 (2C)	Of the fair land there where the S' doth sound, Since slow to punish thee thy neighbors are, Let the Capraia and Gorgona move, And make a hedge across the mouth of Arno, That every person in thee it may drown!	80
80	And grappled to the hair, as one who mounts, So that to Hell I thought we were returning. "Keep fast thy hold, for by such stairs as these,"	3	For if Count Ugolino had the fame Of having in thy castles thee betrayed, Thou shouldst not on such cross have put his sons. Guiltless of any crime, thou modern Thebes!	85
	The Master said, panting as one fatigued, "Must we perforce depart from so much evil."		Their youth made Uguccio and Brigata, And the other two my song doth name above!	90
85	Then through the opening of a rock he issued, And down upon the margin seated me; Then tow'rds me he outstretched his wary step.	118	We passed still farther onward, where the ice Another people ruggedly enswathes, Not downward turned, but all of them reversed. Weeping itself there does not let them weep, And grief that finds a barrier in the eyes	95
	I lifted up mine eyes and thought to see Lucifer in the same way I had left him; And I beheld him upward hold his legs.	⑦	'Turns itself inward' to increase the anguish; Because the earliest tears a cluster form, And, in the manner of a crystal visor, Fill all the cup beneath the eyebrow full.	
90	And if I then became disquieted, Let stolid people think who do not see		And notwithstanding that, as in a callus,	
250	34.93 What the point is beyond which I had passed.	128		33.100 100

33.101	Because of cold all sensibility Its station had abandoned in my face, Still it appeared to me I felt some wind; Whence I: "My Master, who sets this in motion? Is not below here every vapor quenched?" Whence he to me: "Full soon shalt thou be where Thine eye shall answer make to thee of this, Seeing the cause which raineth down the blast." And one of the wretches of the frozen crust Cried out to us: "O souls so merciless That the last post is given unto you, Lift from mine eyes the rigid veils, that I May vent the sorrow which impregns my heart A little, e'er the weeping recongeal." Whence I to him: "If thou wouldst have me help thee, Say who thou wast; and if I free thee not, May I go to the bottom of the ice." Then he replied: "I am Friar Alberigo; He am I of the fruit of the bad garden, Who here a date am getting for my fig." "O," said I to him, "now art thou, too, dead?" And he to me: "How may my body fare Up in the world, no knowledge I possess. Such an advantage has this Ptolomaea, That oftentimes the soul descendeth here Sooner than Atropos in motion sets it. And, that thou mayest more willingly remove From off my countenance these glassy tears, Know that as soon as any soul betrays As I have done, his body by a demon Is taken from him, who thereafter rules it, Until his time has wholly been revolved. Itself down rushes into such a cistern; And still perchance above appears the body Of yonder shade, that winters here behind me. This thou shouldst know, if thou hast just come down; It is Ser Branca d' Oria, and many years Have passed away since he was thus locked up." "I think," said I to him, "thou dost deceive me; For Branca d' Oria is not dead as yet, And eats, and drinks, and sleeps, and puts on clothes." "In moat above," said he, "of Malebranche, There where is boiling the tenacious pitch, As yet had Michel Zanche not arrived, When this one left a devil in his stead In his own body and one near of kin, Who made together with him the betrayal. But hitherward stretch out thy hand forthwith, Open mine eyes;" — and open them I did not, And to be rude to him was courtesy.	129 (81C) 109 (68C)	Ah, Genoese! ye men at variance With every virtue, full of every vice! Wherefore are ye not scattered from the world? For with the vilest spirit of Romagna I found of you one such, who for his deeds In soul already in Cocytus bathes, And still above in body seems alive! 33.157 34 Towards us; therefore look in front of thee," My Master said, "if thou discernest him." As, when there breathes a heavy fog, or when Our hemisphere is darkening into night, Appears far off a mill the wind is turning, Methought that such a building then I saw; And, for the wind, I drew myself behind My Guide, because there was no other shelter. Now was I, and with fear in verse I put it, There where the shades were wholly covered up, And glimmered through like unto straws in glass. Some prone are lying, others stand erect, This with the head, and that one with the soles; Another, bow-like, face to feet inverts. When in advance so far we had proceeded, That it my Master pleased to show to me The creature who once had the beauteous semblance, He from before me moved and made me stop, Saying: "Behold Dis, and behold the place Where thou with fortitude must arm thyself." How frozen I became and powerless then, Ask it not, Reader, for I write it not, Because all language would be insufficient. I did not die, and I alive remained not; Think for thyself now, hast thou aught of wit, What I became, being of both deprived. The Emperor of the kingdom dolorous From his mid-breast forth issued from the ice; And better with a giant I compare Than do the giants with those arms of his; Consider now how great must be that whole, Which unto such a part conforms itself. Were he as fair once, as he now is foul, And lifted up his brow against his Maker, Well may proceed from him all tribulation. O, what a marvel it appeared to me, When I beheld three faces on his head! The one in front, and that vermilion was; Two were the others, that were joined with this Above the middle part of either shoulder, And they were joined together at the crest; And the right-hand one seemed 'twixt white and yellow;	33.151 155 33.157 34 5 10 15 25 30 35 200
105				
110				
115				
120				
125				
L2[I]			L2[I]	
A			A	
130				
135				
140				
145				
Divine XII Comedy			Divine XII Comedy	
33.150			34.43	

31.66	Me Beatrice hath sent from mine own place.	130 (82C)	If thou desire to know who these two are,	32.55
Divine XII Comedy	And if thou lookest up to the third round	110 (69C)	The valley whence Bisenzio descends	Divine XII Comedy
	Of the first rank, again shalt thou behold her		Belonged to them and to their father Albert.	
70	Upon the throne her merits have assigned her.”		They from one body came, and all Caïna	
	Without reply I lifted up mine eyes,		Thou shalt search through, and shalt not find a shade	
	And saw her, as she made herself a crown		More worthy to be fixed in gelatine;	60
	Reflecting from herself the eternal rays.		Not he in whom were broken breast and shadow	
	Not from that region which the highest thunders		At one and the same blow by Arthur’s hand;	
	Is any mortal eye so far removed,		Focaccia not; not he who me encumbers	
75	In whatsoever sea it deepest sinks,		So with his head I see no farther forward,	
	As there from Beatrice my sight; but this		And bore the name of Sassol Mascheroni;	65
	Was nothing unto me; because her image		Well knowest thou who he was, if thou art Tuscan.	
	Descended not to me by medium blurred.		And that thou put me not to further speech,	
	“O Lady, thou in whom my hope is strong,		Know that I Camicion de’ Pazzi was,	
80	And who for my salvation didst endure		And wait Carlino to exonerate me.”	
	In Hell to leave the imprint of thy feet,		Then I beheld a thousand faces, made	70
	Of whatsoever things I have beheld,		Purple with cold; whence o’er me comes a shudder,	
	As coming from thy power and from thy goodness		And evermore will come, at frozen ponds.	
	I recognize the virtue and the grace.		And while we were advancing tow’rds the middle,	
85	Thou from a slave hast brought me unto freedom,		Where everything of weight unites together,	
	By all those ways, by all the expedients,		And I was shivering in the eternal shade,	75
	Whereby thou hadst the power of doing it.		Whether ’twere will, or destiny, or chance,	
♦	Preserve towards me thy magnificence,		I know not; but in walking ’mong the heads	
	So that this soul of mine, which thou hast healed,		I struck my foot hard in the face of one.	
90	Pleasing to thee be loosened from the body.”		Weeping he growled: “Why dost thou trample me?	
L1[O]	Thus I implored; and she, so far away,		Unless thou comest to increase the vengeance	L1[O]
B	Smiled, as it seemed, and looked once more at me;		of Montaperti, why dost thou molest me?”	B
	Then unto the eternal fountain turned.		And I: “My Master, now wait here for me,	
	And said the Old Man holy: “That thou mayst		That I through him may issue from a doubt;	
95	Accomplish perfectly thy journeying,		Then thou mayst hurry me, as thou shalt wish.”	
	Whereunto prayer and holy love have sent me,		The Leader stopped; and to that one I said	85
	Fly with thine eyes all round about this garden;	5 (4C)	Who was blaspheming vehemently still:	
	For seeing it will discipline thy sight		“Who art thou, that thus reprehendest others?”	
	Farther to mount along the ray divine.		“Now who art thou, that goest through Antenora	
31.100	And she, the Queen of Heaven, for whom I burn		Smiting,” replied he, “other people’s cheeks,	
	Wholly with love, will grant us every grace,		So that, if thou wert living, ’t were too much?”	90
	Because that I her faithful Bernard am.”		“Living I am, and dear to thee it may be,”	
	As he who peradventure from Croatia		Was my response, “if thou demandest fame,	
	Cometh to gaze at our Veronica,	5	That ’mid the other notes thy name I place.”	
105	Who through its ancient fame is never sated,		And he to me: “For the reverse I long;	
	But says in thought, the while it is displayed,		Take thyself hence, and give me no more trouble;	95
	“My Lord, Christ Jesus, God of very God,		For ill thou knowest to flatter in this hollow.”	
	Now was your semblance made like unto this?”		Then by the scalp behind I seized upon him,	
	Even such was I while gazing at the living	120	And said: “It must needs be thou name thyself,	
110	Charity of the man, who in this world		Or not a hair remain upon thee here.”	
	By contemplation tasted of that peace.		Whence he to me: “Though thou strip off my hair,	32.100
	“Thou son of grace, this jocund life,” began he,	⑦	I will not tell thee who I am, nor show thee,	
	“Will not be known to thee by keeping ever		If on my head a thousand times thou fall.”	
	Thine eyes below here on the lowest place;		I had his hair in hand already twisted,	
055	31.115 But mark the circles to the most remote,	130	And more than one shock of it had pulled out,	32.104 400

32.105	He barking, with his eyes held firmly down, When cried another: "What doth ail thee, Bocca? Is 't not enough to clatter with thy jaws, But thou must bark? what devil touches thee?" "Now," said I, "I care not to have thee speak, 110 Accursed traitor; for unto thy shame I will report of thee veracious news." "Begone," replied he, "and tell what thou wilt, But be not silent, if thou issue hence, Of him who had just now his tongue so prompt; 115 He weepeth here the silver of the French; 'I saw,' thus canst thou phrase it, 'him of Duera There where the sinners stand out in the cold.' If thou shouldst questioned be who else was there, Thou hast beside thee him of Beccaria, 120 Of whom the gorget Florence slit asunder; Gianni del Soldanier, I think, may be Yonder with Ganellon, and Tebaldello Who oped Faenza when the people slept." Already we had gone away from him, 125 When I beheld two frozen in one hole, So that one head a hood was to the other; ♦ And even as bread through hunger is devoured, The uppermost on the other set his teeth, There where the brain is to the nape united. L1[I] Not in another fashion Tydeus gnawed B The temples of Menalippus in disdain, Than that one did the skull and the other things. "O thou, who showest by such bestial sign Thy hatred against him whom thou art eating, 135 Tell me the wherefore," said I, "with this compact, That if thou rightfully of him complain, In knowing who ye are, and his transgression, I in the world above repay thee for it, 32.139 If that wherewith I speak be not dried up."	131 (83C) 111 (70C)	From bench to bench, into the flower descending, They carried something of the peace and ardor Which by the fanning of their flanks they won. Nor did the interposing 'twixt the flower And what was o'er it of such plenitude 20 Of flying shapes impede the sight and splendor; Because the light divine so penetrates The universe, according to its merit, That naught can be an obstacle against it. This realm secure and full of gladness, 25 Crowded with ancient people and with modern, Unto one mark had all its look and love. O Trinal Light, that in a single star Sparkling upon their sight so satisfies them, Look down upon our tempest here below! 30 If the barbarians, coming from some region That every day by Helice is covered, Revolving with her son whom she delights in, Beholding Rome and all her noble works, Were wonder-struck, what time the Lateran 35 Above all mortal things was eminent, — I who to the divine had from the human, From time unto eternity, had come, From Florence to a people just and sane, With what amazement must I have been filled! 40 Truly between this and the joy, it was L1[I] My pleasure not to hear, and to be mute. B And as a pilgrim who delighteth him In gazing round the temple of his vow, And hopes some day to retell how it was, 45 So through the living light my way pursuing Directed I mine eyes o'er all the ranks, Now up, now down, and now all round about. Faces I saw of charity persuasive, Embellished by His light and their own smile, 31.50 And attitudes adorned with every grace. The general form of Paradise already My glance had comprehended as a whole, In no part hitherto remaining fixed, And round I turned me with rekindled wish 55 My Lady to interrogate of things Concerning which my mind was in suspense. One thing I meant, another answered me; I thought I should see Beatrice, and saw An Old Man habited like the glorious people. 60 O'erflowing was he in his eyes and cheeks With joy benign, in attitude of pity As to a tender father is becoming. And "She, where is she?" instantly I said; Whence he: "To put an end to thy desire, 31.65
31	I N fashion then as of a snow-white rose P MID XII Displayed itself to me the saintly host, Whom Christ in his own blood had made his bride, But the other host, that flying sees and sings 5 The glory of Him who doth enamor it, And the goodness that created it so noble, Even as a swarm of bees, that sinks in flowers One moment, and the next returns again To where its labour is to sweetness turned, 10 Sank into the great flower, that is adorned With leaves so many, and thence reascended To where its love abideth evermore. Divine XII Comedy Their faces had they all of living flame, And wings of gold, and all the rest so white 450 31.15 No snow unto that limit doth attain.	6 (5C) 6 121 7	31.16 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000

Divine
I
Comedy

30

And it began: "In this fifth resting-place
Upon the tree that liveth by its summit,
And aye bears fruit, and never loses leaf,
Are blessed spirits that below, ere yet
They came to Heaven, were of such great renown
That every Muse therewith would affluent be.
Therefore look thou upon the cross's horns;
He whom I now shall name will there enact
What doth within a cloud its own swift fire."
I saw athwart the Cross a splendor drawn
By naming Joshua, (even as he did it,)
Nor noted I the word before the deed;

18.39

1

MIDWAY upon the journey of our life
I found myself within a forest dark,
For the straightforward pathway had been lost.
Ah me! how hard a thing it is to say
What was this forest savage, rough, and stern,
Which in the very thought renews the fear.
So bitter is it, death is little more;
But of the good to treat, which there I found,
Speak will I of the other things I saw there.
I cannot well repeat how there I entered,
So full was I of slumber at the moment
In which I had abandoned the true way.
But after I had reached a mountain's foot,
At that point where the valley terminated,
Which had with consternation pierced my heart,
Upward I looked, and I beheld its shoulders,
Vested already with that planet's rays
Which leadeth others right by every road.
Then was the fear a little quieted
That in my heart's lake had endured throughout
The night, which I had passed so piteously.
And even as he, who, with distressful breath,
Forth issued from the sea upon the shore,
Turns to the water perilous and gazes;
So did my soul, that still was fleeing onward,
Turn itself back to re-behold the pass
Which never yet a living person left.
After my weary body I had rested,
The way resumed I on the desert slope,
So that the firm foot ever was the lower.
And lo! almost where the ascent began,
A panther light and swift exceedingly,
Which with a spotted skin was covered o'er!
And never moved she from before my face,
Nay, rather did impede so much my way,
That many times I to return had turned.
The time was the beginning of the morning,
And up the sun was mounting with those stars
That with him were, what time the Love Divine

1.38

Divine
XII
Comedy

31.116

Until thou shalt behold enthroned the Queen
To whom this realm is subject and devoted."
I lifted up mine eyes, and as at morn
The oriental part of the horizon
Surpasses that wherein the sun goes down,
Thus, as if going with mine eyes from vale
To mount, I saw a part in the remoteness
Surpass in splendor all the other front.
And even as there, where we await the pole
That Phaeton drove badly, blazes more
The light, and is on either side diminished,
So likewise that pacific oriflamme
Gleamed brightest in the centre, and each side
In equal measure did the flame abate.
And at that centre, with their wings expanded,
More than a thousand jubilant Angels saw I,
Each differing in effulgence and in kind.
I saw there at their sports and at their songs
A beauty smiling, which the gladness was
Within the eyes of all the other saints;
And if I had in speaking as much wealth
As in imagining, I should not dare
To attempt the smallest part of its delight
Bernard, as soon as he beheld mine eyes
Fixed and intent upon its fervid fervor,
His own with such affection turned to her
That it made mine more ardent to behold.

31.142

C

THOU Virgin Mother, daughter of thy Son,
Humble and high beyond all other creature,
The limit fixed of the eternal counsel,
Thou art the one who such nobility
To human nature gave, that its Creator
Did not disdain to make himself its creature.
Within thy womb rekindled was the love,
By heat of which in the eternal peace
After such wise this flower has germinated.
Here unto us thou art a noonday torch
Of charity, and below there among mortals
Thou art the living fountain-head of hope.
Lady, thou art so great, and so prevailing,
That he who wishes grace, nor runs to thee,
His aspirations without wings would fly.
Not only thy benignity gives succor
To him who asketh it, but oftentimes
Forerunneth of its own accord the asking
In thee compassion is, in thee is pity,
In thee magnificence; in thee unites
Whate'er of goodness is in any creature.
Now doth this man, who from the lowest depth
Of the universe as far as here has seen

33.23

009

33.24 One after one the spiritual lives,
 Supplicate thee through grace for so much power
 That with his eyes he may uplift himself
 Higher towards the uttermost salvation.
 And I, who never hurned for my own seeing
 More than I do for his, all of my prayers
 30 Proffer to thee, and pray they come not short,
 That thou wouldst scatter from him every cloud
 Of his mortality so with thy prayers,
 That the Chief Pleasure be to him displayed.
 Still **farther** do I pray thee, Queen, who canst
 35 Whate'er thou wilt, that sound thou mayst preserve
 After so great a vision his affections.
 Let thy protection conquer human movements;
 See Beatrice and all the blessed ones
 My prayers to second clasp their handls to thee!"
 40 The eyes beloved and revered of God,
 Fastened upon the speaker, showed to us
 How grateful unto her are prayers devout;
 Then unto the Eternal Light they turned,
 On which it is not credible could be
 45 By any creature bent an eye so clear.
 ♦ And I, who to the end of all desires
 Was **now** approaching, even as I ought
 The ardor of desire within me ended.
 L1[I] Bernard was beckoning unto me, and smiling,
 C 33.50 That I should upward look; but I already
 Was of my own accord such as he wished;
 Because my sight, becoming purified,
 Was entering more and more into the ray
 Of the High Light which of itself is true.
 55 From that time forward what I saw was greater
 Than our discourse, that to such vision yields,
 And yields the memory unto such excess.
 Even as he is who seeth in a dream,
 And after dreaming the **imprinted** passion
 60 Remains, and to his mind the rest returns not,
 Even such am I, for almost utterly
 Ceases my vision, and distilleth yet
 Within my heart the sweetness born of it;
 Even thus the snow is in the sun unsealed,
 65 Even thus upon the wind in the light leaves
 Were the soothsayings of the Sibyl lost.
 O Light Supreme, that dost so far uplift thee
 From the conceits of mortals, to my mind
 Of what thou didst appear re-lend a little,
 And make my tongue of so great puissance,
 That but a single sparkle of thy glory
 It may bequeath unto the future people;
 Divine XII Comedy 059 33.73 For by returning to my memory somewhat,

133 Who with the spear and with the nails was won, 32.129
 113 Beside him sits, and by the other rests
 That leader under whom on manna lived
 The people ingrate, fickle, and stiff-necked.
 Opposite Peter seest thou Anna seated,
 So well content to look upon her daughter,
 Her eyes she moves not while she sings Hosanna. 135
 And opposite the eldest household father
 Lucia sits, she who thy Lady moved
 When to rush downward thou didst bend thy brows.
 But since the moments of thy vision fly,
 Here will we **make full stop**, as a good tailor 140
 Who makes the gown according to his cloth,
 And unto **the first Love** will turn our eyes,
 That looking upon Him thou penetrate
 As far as possible through his effulgence.
 Truly, lest peradventure thou recede, 145
 Moving thy **wings** believing to advance,
 By prayer behoves it that grace be obtained;
 Grace from that one who has the power to aid thee;
 And thou shalt follow me with thy affection
 That from my words thy heart turn not aside." 32.150
 And he began this holy orison. 32.151
 18 **N**OW was alone rejoicing in its word
 That soul beatified, and I was tasting
 My own, the bitter tempering with the sweet, L1[I]
 And the Lady who to God was leading me C
 Said: "Change thy thought; consider that I am
 Near unto Him who every wrong disburdens."
 Unto the loving accents of my comfort
 I turned me round, and then what love I saw
 Within those holy eyes I **here** relinquish;
 Not only that my language I distrust, 10
 But that my mind cannot return so far
 Above itself, unless another guide it.
 Thus much **upon that point can I repeat**,
 That, her again beholding, my affection
 From every other longing was released. 15
 While the eternal pleasure, which direct
 Rayed upon Beatrice, from her fair face
 Contented me with its reflected aspect,
 Conquering me with the radiance of a smile,
 She said to me, "Turn thee about and listen; 20
 Not in mine eyes alone is Paradise."
 Even as sometimes here do we behold
 The affection in the look, if it be such
 That all the soul is wrapt away by it,
 So, by the flaming of the effulgence holy
 To which I turned, I recognized therein
 The wish of speaking to me somewhat farther. 18.27 873

32.79	After the earlier ages were completed,	134 (84C)	And by a little sounding in these verses,	33.74
Divine XII Comedy	Behoved it that the males by circumcision	114 (71C)	More of thy victory shall be conceived!	Divine XII Comedy
	Unto their innocent wings should virtue add;		I think the keenness of the living ray	
	But after that the time of grace had come		Which I endured would have bewildered me,	
	Without the baptism absolute of Christ,		If but mine eyes had been averted from it;	
	Such innocence below there was retained.		And I remember that I was more bold	
85	Look now into the face that unto Christ		On this account to bear, so that I joined	80
	Hath most resemblance; for its brightness only		My aspect with the Glory Infinite.	
	Is able to prepare thee to see Christ.”		O grace abundant, by which I presumed	
	On her did I behold so great a gladness		To fix my sight upon the Light Eternal,	
	Rain down, borne onward in the holy minds		So that the seeing I consumed therein!	
90	Created through that altitude to fly,		I saw that in its depth far down is lying	
	That whatsoever I had seen before		Bound up with love together in one volume,	
	Did not suspend me in such admiration,		What through the universe in leaves is scattered;	
	Nor show me such similitude of God.		Substance, and accident, and their operations,	
	And the same Love that first descended there,		All interfused together in such wise	
95	“ <i>Ave Maria, gratia plena,</i> ” singing,		That what I speak of is one simple light.	90
	In front of her his wings expanded wide.		The universal fashion of this knot	
	Unto the canticle divine responded		Methinks I saw, since more abundantly	
	From every part the court beatified,		In saying this I feel that I rejoice.	
	So that each sight became serener for it.		One moment is more lethargy to me,	
32.100	“O holy father, who for me endurest		Than five and twenty centuries to the emprise	95
♦	To be below here, leaving the sweet place		That startled Neptune with the shade of Argo!	
√ P-O~w9,000 A or B	In which thou sittest by eternal lot,		My mind in this wise wholly in suspense,	
	Who is the Angel that with so much joy		Steadfast, immovable, attentive gazed,	
L2[O]	Into the eyes is looking of our Queen,		And evermore with gazing grew enkindled.	L2[O]
Ⓒ	Enamoured so that he seems made of fire?”		In presence of that light one such becomes,	33.100 Ⓒ
	Thus I again recourse had to the teaching		That to withdraw therefrom for other prospect	
	Of that one who delighted him in Mary		It is impossible he e’er consent;	
	As doth the star of morning in the sun.		Because the good, which object is of will,	
	And he to me: “Such gallantry and grace		Is gathered all in this, and out of it	
110	‡ As there can be in Angel and in soul,	9 (6C)	That is defective which is perfect there .	105
	All is in him; and thus we fain would have it;		Shorter henceforward will my language fall	
	Because he is the one who bore the palm		Of what I yet remember, than an infant’s	
	Down unto Mary, when the Son of God		Who still his tongue doth moisten at the breast.	
	To take our burden on himself decreed.		Not because more than one unmingled semblance	
115	But now come onward with thine eyes, as I	9	Was in the living light on which I looked,	110
	Speaking shall go, and note the great patricians		For it is always what it was before;	
	Of this most just and merciful of empires.		But through the sight, that fortified itself	
	Those two that sit above there most enraptured,		In me by looking, one appearance only	
	As being very near unto Augusta,		To me was ever changing as I changed.	
120	Are as it were the two roots of this Rose.		Within the deep and luminous subsistence	115
	He who upon the left is near her placed		Of the High Light appeared to me three circles,	
	The father is, by whose audacious taste	124	Of threefold color and of one dimension,	
	The human species so much bitter tastes.		And by the second seemed the first reflected	
	Upon the right thou seest that ancient father		As Iris is by Iris, and the third	
125	Of Holy Church, into whose keeping Christ	⑦	Seemed fire that equally from both is breathed.	
	The keys committed of this lovely flower.		O how all speech is feeble and falls short	
	And he who all the evil days beheld,		Of my conceit, and this to what I saw	
850	32.128 Before his death, of her the beauteous bride	134	Is such, ’t is not enough to call it little!	33.123 700

33.124	O Light Eterne, sole in thyself that dwellest, Sole knowest thyself, and, known unto thyself And knowing, lovest and smilest on thyself! That circulation, which being thus conceived Appeared in thee as a reflected light, When somewhat contemplated by mine eyes,	135 (85C) 115 (72C)	Of the Lady of Heaven, and the other seats Below it, such a great division make, So opposite doth that of the great John, Who, ever holy, desert and martyrdom Endured, and afterwards two years in Hell. And under him thus to divide were chosen Francis, and Benedict, and Augustine,	32.29 35
130	Within itself, of its own very color Seemed to me painted with our effigy, Wherefore my sight was all absorbed therein. As the geometrician, who endeavours To square the circle, and discovers not, By taking thought, the principle he wants,		And know that downward from that rank which cleaves Midway the sequence of the two divisions, Not by their proper merit are they seated; But by another's under fixed conditions; For these are spirits one and all assoiled Before they any true election had.	40 45
135	Even such was I at that new apparition; I wished to see how the image to the circle Conformed itself, and how it there finds place; But my own wings were not enough for this, Had it not been that then my mind there smote A flash of lightning, wherein came its wish.		Well canst thou recognise it in their faces, And also in their voices puerile, If thou regard them well and hearken to them. Now doubtst thou, and doubting thou art silent; But I will loosen for thee the strong bond In which thy subtile fancies hold thee fast.	32.50
140	Here vigor failed the lofty fantasy: But now was turning my desire and will, Even as a wheel that equally is moved, The Love which moves the sun and the other stars.		Within the amplitude of this domain No casual point can possibly find place, No more than sadness can, or thirst, or hunger; For by eternal law has been established Whatever thou beholdest, so that closely The ring is fitted to the finger here.	L2[I] C
33.145	32 ♦ A BSORBED in his delight, that contemplator Assumed the willing office of a teacher, And gave beginning to these holy words: "The wound that Mary closed up and anointed, She at her feet who is so beautiful, She is the one who opened it and pierced it. Within that order which the third seats make Is seated Rachel, lower than the other, With Beatrice, in manner as thou seest.		And therefore are these people, festinate Unto true life, not <i>sine causa</i> here More and less excellent among themselves. The King, by means of whom this realm reposes In so great love and in so great delight That no will ventureth to ask for more, In his own joyous aspect every mind Creating, at his pleasure dowers with grace Diversely; and let here the effect suffice.	60 65
10	Sarah, Rebecca, Judith, and her who was Ancestress of the Singer, who for dole Of the misdeed said, ' <i>Miserere mei</i> ,' Canst thou behold from seat to seat descending Down in gradation, as with each one's name I through the Rose go down from leaf to leaf.	10 (7C)	And this is clearly and expressly noted For you in Holy Scripture, in those twins Who in their mother had their anger roused. According to the color of the hair, Therefore, with such a grace the light supreme Consenteth that they worthily be crowned.	70
15	And downward from the seventh row, even as Above the same, succeed the Hebrew women, Dividing all the tresses of the flower; Because, according to the view which Faith In Christ had taken, these are the partition By which the sacred stairways are divided.	10	Without, then, any merit of their deeds, Stationed are they in different gradations, Differing only in their first acuteness. 'T is true that in the early centuries, With innocence, to work out their salvation Sufficient was the faith of parents only.	32.78
20	Upon this side, where perfect is the flower With each one of its petals, seated are Those who believed in Christ who was to come. Upon the other side, where intersected With vacant spaces are the semicircles, Are those who looked to Christ already come.	125 7 135		
Divine XII Comedy	And as, upon this side, the glorious seat			Divine XII Comedy